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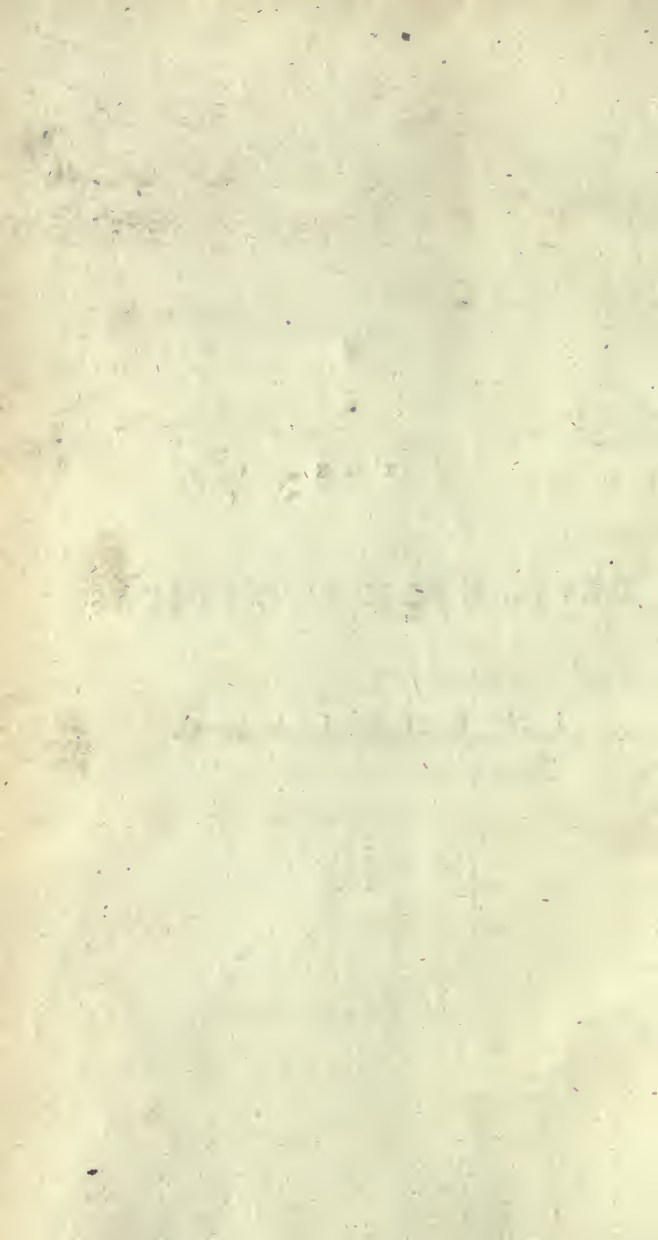
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DEVIL UPON TWO STICKS

I N E N G L A N D.



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THE
DEVIL UPON TWO STICKS
IN ENGLAND:

BEING
A CONTINUATION OF
LE DIABLE BOITEUX
OF

LE SAGE.
[by William Combe].
THE SECOND EDITION.

Haud passibus aqius—VIRGIL.

VOL. II.

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DEVIL UPON TWO STICKS.

C H A P. VIII.

The DEVIL upon TWO STICKS takes DON CLEOFAS a Morning Stroll.— Certain Characters of the Ton.

DON CLEOFAS was on the moment of rising, when the Devil upon Two Sticks entered his chamber. “I was rather apprehensive, my dear friend,” said the Count, “that some or other of your professional undertakings would have kept you from me till a much later hour. I had really appointed this morning for an exercise of patience.” “The commissions of the last evening,” answered Asmodeus, “were very speedily executed: out of five,

I found four already compleated ; and as to the other, it required so little of my interference, that though I may feel a natural satisfaction at the event, I cannot arrogate to myself any merit whatever on the success of it." " Though I most sincerely rejoice in your liberty," said Don Cleofas, " I cannot play the hypocrite so far, as to express any satisfaction at your triumphs over poor human frailty, and especially that part of it which is to be found in the female heart."—" Nor shall I be guilty of duplicity to you," answered the Demon, " by paying you any compliments upon the amiable effusions of your benevolent spirit ; your conscience was not always, I believe, of such a tender nature : but be that as it may, the business of last night, though I had very little concern in it, may, notwithstanding, afford you some entertainment ; and, while you are taking your breakfast, I will, without any fear of offending your delicacy, give you the picture

ture it affords of a Woman of Fashion." Don Cleofas smiled,—and gave his most willing attention to the following relation.

The WOMAN of FASHION.

“ LEONORA was a wealthy orphan, who had been left, at a very early age, to the care of a maiden aunt, in a distant part of the west of England. Mrs. P———, for that was the lady’s name, had been, for many years, an inhabitant of *London*, a devoted admirer of quality, and in the habits of intimacy with several persons, who had some little pretensions to it. An accident, however, befell her, which, though by no means generally known, or even suspected, was of such a nature, as to render it rather prudent for her to retire, for some time, to her country seat; where she practised ostentatious charity, assumed the airs of high life, dictated to her provincial neighbours, and consoled herself in being

the first person in her country societies, for being no longer the last among her *London* acquaintance. To this lady, the lively, beautiful, and wealthy Leonora was entrusted; and, under her tuition, was this charming girl to be instructed in the accomplishments of her fortune and station.

“ The first idea and principal object of Mrs. P———, was to instill into the mind of her niece, the ambition to become a woman of fashion. The perfection of such a character, as it was conceived in the mind of the old lady, was the model on which Leonora was to be formed. Her vivacity was, by no means, unsuitable to her years; but her aunt was very attentive to check the flow of it, by assuring her that she would be too boisterous for a woman of fashion. The good lady’s arguments in favour, or to the disadvantage of any part of Leonora’s conduct, all ended in describing its approach to, or deviation from, her favourite character. The accomplishments

ments of her sex, which the careless levity of youth used sometimes to neglect, were not represented to her as necessary to the ornament or comfort of her life, but urged merely as the essential accompaniments of the fashionable character; as no one could figure, with propriety, in fashionable circles, or even gain a welcome admission into them, who did not possess the passport of elegant education.

“ Mrs. P——— appeared to consider religion as a matter of no consequence whatever in forming the mind of her young relation. The fashionable manner of walking up the aisle of a church, and exercising the ceremonies of a pew, were all she taught her concerning her duty to the Creator. Whether Mrs. P——— was of opinion that women of fashion have nothing to do with Heaven, I do not pretend to determine; but she certainly never made the least mention of such a place to poor Leonora; and left the clergyman, in his

weekly discourse, to preach about it to her, in common with the rest of his congregation.

“ Leonora, as may be very naturally supposed, did not at all like the formality of her aunt, and her lively spirits broke out, sometimes, in opposition to it; so that the old lady, from one cause or another, was under continual apprehensions that her niece would never become a woman of fashion. Nay, the girl hearing, one morning while she was at breakfast, a pack of hounds in full cry, sprang from her seat, overturned the table, ran into the field, and followed the chace, till she had scarce a shoe to her foot, or a rag to her back. This circumstance was of such a nature, as to make Mrs. P——— despair of ever reducing the Tom-boy character, as she was pleased to call it, of her giddy relation, to any thing like the sobriety of decorum, so essentially requisite to the character of a woman of fashion.

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“ There was, however, one method yet untried, by which the good lady thought that a proper ambition might be insinuated into Leonora’s mind; and that was to employ her in reading aloud the London newspapers; which, as they contain an epitome of what passes in the polite world, might, with the assistance of certain explanatory comments, serve as a very correct source of instruction; and help to fit her for the character which it was the fondest ambition of her aunt to see her attain.— ‘ *I should die in peace,*’ said Mrs. P——, frequently to her niece, ‘ if I could once see you a woman of fashion.’

“ In consequence of this plan, Leonora began her newspaper studies; and took so kindly to the occupation, that her aunt began to form the most flattering hopes of her future consequence. Nor were her conjectures erroneous; for within a month after this course of instruction had commenced, the following conversation took place between them:

‘ And pray, my dear madam,’ demanded Leonora, ‘ what is this journey to *Gretna Green*, that I see so frequently mentioned in the papers?’— *A runaway marriage is a folly*, my dear,’ answered Mrs. P——, ‘ *that people of fashion are sometimes guilty of.*’ ‘ And what is this strange account,’ said the young lady, ‘ of a certain Ducheſs having loſt ten thouſand pounds at Faro, in the courſe of a week?’— ‘ Gaming,’ answered the old lady, ‘ is a practice I do not approve ; *but women of fashion cannot always avoid it,—they muſt ſometimes comply with the wiſhes of their friends.*’ ‘ But do explain to me, my dear, dear aunt!’ exclaimed Leonora, ‘ this unintelligible ſtory of a lady, not an hundred miles from Berkeley Square, who is ſaid to have given ſome very ſprouting ornaments to her huſband’s temples.’— ‘ Ah ! my dear niece,’ replied the good lady, ‘ *women of fashion will have their caprices.*’—In ſhort, the newspapers afforded

forded all the instruction to the niece that the aunt could wish; and so apt a scholar did the young lady prove,—that Mrs. P——— determined, at once, to give her an immediate season at *Bath*, as a preparation for the more enlarged sphere of *London*.

“ Leonora was lively, handsome, and heiress to a fortune of three thousand a year. It will, therefore, be readily believed, that she was universally admired:—in short, Leonora danced, fell violently in love, and ran away to Scotland, with a younger brother of good family and small fortune.—As soon as she was married, she wrote to her aunt, informing her, that she had taken a journey to *Gretna Green*, and that she did not doubt of being forgiven, as it *was a folly that people of fashion were sometimes guilty of*.—— Mrs. P——— was not altogether pleased, but finding that her niece had married a gentleman of good family, and was of course likely to become

a woman of fashion, she made her a present of some family jewels, and retired to her own country residence.

“ Leonora now entered into all the gaiety of fashionable life;—her whole time was engrossed by the occupations of dress and the vanity of pleasure,—by public amusements and private parties.—It so happened, indeed, that at one of the latter, she engaged at a fashionable game of chance, and lost a very considerable sum of money: of this circumstance, some good-humoured friend informed her aunt in the country; and to the letter of remonstrance which the good lady wrote upon the occasion, *Leonora* replied, in answer, that though gaming was by no means what she approved, *yet women of fashion cannot always avoid it; they must sometimes comply with the disposition of their friends.*——For six months after their marriage, Leonora and her husband were passionately fond of each other,—and then became as fashionably indifferent,

indifferent, as people of fashion need to be.—She was by far too handsome not to have suitors in plenty, and too incautious not to be seduced,” continued the Demon, “with very little assistance from me; and Mrs. P——, will soon read in her darling newspapers, that her niece is *suspected of having enriched the temples of her husband*.—The old lady will, on this intelligence, hasten up to town;—and in answer to her reproof on the occasion, her niece is prepared to reply, *that women of fashion will have their caprices*. In short, Mrs. P——, may now die in peace; for Leonora is a complete woman of fashion.”

“And so much,” said Don Cleofas, smiling, “for the care of a maiden aunt in the country.” “In this instance,” said the Demon, “I must acknowledge, it has not been successful; but it is, by no means, the worst mode of female education employed in this country, when the aunt has common understanding. Poor Leonora

was truly unfortunate in the guardian of her youth; for her vivacity was that of innocence, and wanted nothing but the attentions of a rational instructor, to become the guardian, instead of being the betrayer of her virtue.

“ But it is now time,” continued the Demon, “ to hasten your toilette, that I may proceed in the course of my morning instructions; a stroll in some of the most frequented parts of this end of the town, will furnish me with every opportunity I can desire.”

As they entered Pall-mall, “ that tall, thin man,” said Asmodeus, “ who appears to be in such a violent hurry, is a baronet, who holds himself forth as a character of universal benevolence. He is a great promoter of charitable subscriptions, and loves to see his name in the public lists of those who contribute to them. As a proof of his philanthropy, he devotes a part of every

every morning to an attendance on the principal public office of the police, to gratify the finer feelings of his heart, in hearing the examination of the various offenders who are brought before it. A very notorious villain is, this day, to appear there, on the charge of a murder, which was attended with circumstances of uncommon cruelty; and the amiable knight is now hurrying thither an hour before the time of business, in order to secure himself a commodious place."

"But tell me, I pray you," said Don Cleofas, "what superb hotel is this before us?"—"It is," answered the Demon,— "the residence of the Prince of Wales, the Heir Apparent to the British empire; in which an enormous expence has been employed, with very little taste, and less knowledge."—Is it not possible," demanded the Count, "to gratify my curiosity with a sight of that illustrious personage?"—"Most assuredly," answered Asmodeus.
"Indeed,

“ Indeed, I have no doubt but you will have the pleasure of seeing him in the course of our morning’s walk. His Royal Highness loves to appear without form or parade, and mixes in society, and pursues his amusements with the ease and freedom of a private gentleman. Your Spanish pride will be astonished at the familiarity with which he mingles in the scenes of ordinary life.”

“ I suppose,” said Don Cleofas, “ that the gentleman who has just issued on horseback from the court of the hotel, with a groom following him, is one of the Royal household. If I may guess from the violent rate at which he gallops along the street, he is dispatched on business of the first importance. His zeal in his master’s service is certainly very great, as he seems to run no small risque of his life in the execution of it.”—“ Prepare yourself then to be a little surprised, my good friend,” replied Asmodeus, smiling, “ for that very person

person is the Prince himself.”—“ If that can be possible,” said the Count, with a look and shrug of the utmost surprise, “ all I have to observe on the subject is, that if my head stood the least chance of wearing a crown, I would not be quite so careless of the neck that supports it.” “ There are many very sensible people,” observed the Demon, “ who are precisely of your opinion : but we shall see more of this illustrious personage hereafter ;”—“ and, I trust,” said the Count, “ in a situation more to his advantage.”—“ That I cannot absolutely promise,” answered Asmodeus : “ But, at present, I must intreat you to transfer your attention to the stalking figure that approaches us, with a star glittering on his breast, and a crimson ribband hanging across his waistcoat, which makes so easy a resting place for his left-hand. Regard, I beseech you, the nice adjustment of the colours of his dress, to display, with the most striking effect, his insignia of knighthood.

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“ He is, I assure you, one of those pleasant men, who are perfectly satisfied with themselves, and whose whole happiness consists in the uniform sincerity of self-applause. He daily sallies forth, not with the idle spirit of antient knighthood, in search of adventures, but to offer himself and his distinguished decorations to the public gaze. After a patrol through some of the more frequented and fashionable streets, he returns home, and consoles himself through the remainder of a dull day, with an occasional application to the looking-glass, and the pleasure which results from reflecting on the morning exhibition of his personal splendour. The generality of people connect the pleasure of seeing, with that of being seen; but such is his calm philosophy, that his wishes do not extend beyond the latter satisfaction.

“ The tall, well-looking man that follows him, is a knight of another cast, who

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is also very fond of walking the streets, but for a less innocent and less honourable purpose. He is a baronet of considerable fortune, who lets his country-seat, and lives entirely in town, for no better reason, than to carry on intrigues with milliners apprentices, servant maids, and the lower class of females. He prowls about the town in search of such objects as suit his depraved fancy, and then returns home to meet a little infamous German Baron, whom he keeps in constant pay, with a subordinate female agent, to hunt down the game that he has discovered. From this account of the gentleman, you will not be surprised that he is always seen alone. His occupations, you may observe, would make companions inconvenient; but this is not all,—fashionable amusements delight him not, and even elegant vice disdains him: so that his whole society consists of the panders of his passions, and the unhappy wretches who are seduced to gratify them. By your sarcastic

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tic smile," continued Asmodeus, "I perceive that you consider him as a favourite engine of my ministry; but your sagacity is deceived: his are petty, grovelling mischiefs, that disgrace the cause I was formed to support."

"Tell me then," said Don Cleofas,—
"who is that singular figure whom I saw in the elegant *vis-a-vis* that has just passed us."—"You will not suppose, I fancy," replied the Demon, "that he, at least, has any share in my concerns, when I tell you that he is a *Castrato*. This neutral kind of animal is a singer at the Italian opera; who, for a winter's exhibition of his vocal powers, is paid the sum of fifteen hundred pounds; with the allowance of a brilliant equipage, a good house, an handsome table, and a public benefit; besides the numerous presents of the nobility and persons of fashion, at whose private concerts he condescends to assist."—"This, indeed, is a glorious country," exclaimed Don Cleofas,

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fas, “in which every species of merit is sure of a reward !”

“You will be confirmed in your opinion,” observed the Demon, “when I inform you concerning the person who has just descended from his carriage, at the door of the great hotel before us. He is a quack of the first class,—and pretends, by the power of sympathy, or what he calls animal magnetism, to cure all the disorders of the human frame, without any application whatever to the powers of medicine. He attends there on a lady of the first fashion, for a disorder in her eyes, acquired by the midnight vigils of the gaming-table; and whose impatience at being kept so long from her darling employment by the regular care of regular men, has sent for this wretched empiric, who promises, in a very short time, to charm away her complaint. Most luckily for him, he is called upon at a period when the disorder is yielding to the

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the treatment which had been already pursued;—and he will actually obtain the credit of the cure, by his impertinent mummery, which had, in fact, been already performed by the practical skill of those who preceded him.

The good sense of the nation naturally treats with contempt and disdain such examples of empirical effrontery; but still these crafty people find a resource in the weak, who are easily deceived,—in the lovers of novelty, who are eager to try anything they never heard of before,—in the curious, who are ever willing to pay their money to satisfy their curiosity,—in the hypochondriac, who exists by ringing changes upon remedies,—and in the despairing,—who, having been given up as incurable by regular practice,—can hardly be blamed for applying to the vaunting promises of quackery. Hence it is, that in this opulent country, the weak and the
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thoughtless, furnish a support for ignorance, impudence and knavery.

But in order to change the class of our subjects, which have not hitherto been of the first order,—and to awaken in your mind those feelings which are the most congenial to your nature, let me request your attention,” continued Asmodeus, “to the person who is coming slowly down the street on horseback, followed by a groom in a blue livery.

He is a gentleman who was born to a great fortune, and succeeded to his inheritance at an early period of life.—His talents were, by no means, of the first class, but they received every aid and advantage which education could bestow.

On his return from the tour of *Europe*, he appeared on the theatre of fashionable life with eclat and respect.—His manners were amiable, his accomplishments elegant, and
his

his fortune considerable. He had no vices to indulge, and no violent passions to gratify. He never sat down to a card-table, but at private assemblies,—and his attachment to the fairer sex never betrayed itself in a manner that ought to disgrace him.—He was humane, and he was generous,—but was never extravagant.—He did not wish to hoard up, and he was determined not to run out.—He perfectly understood the accommodation of means to ends; and was, therefore, never heated by the fever of luxurious enjoyment, or chilled by the cold fits of satiety, inconvenience or distress.

“ Such a man, you will say, was formed to be happy; but it is not in my power to describe him as possessing the happiness he so well deserves:—for, with all his good sense, and in spite of all his precaution, he became enamoured of a lady whom it was impossible for him to possess.—She was in the highest rank of nobility; and though, by no means beyond the reach of his fortune

tune and situation, would never have been yielded to him, but from the influence of that mutual regard which did not exist.—Indeed the lady was not only engaged, at this period, to a young nobleman of her own choice, which was, in itself, an invincible obstacle to this gentleman's pretensions; but with a fruitless vanity, that deserves the harshest name, she thought proper to amuse herself with deriding that affection which her charms had produced in the breast of an amiable man; who, if he could not obtain her love, at least deserved her pity.

“ For some time he struggled against the passion that possessed him, but struggled in vain. The barbed arrow remained in his heart, and the mortification which he received from the silly, cruel vanity of the beloved object, added venom to the point. He, therefore, very wisely determined to remove himself from the immediate
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ate scene of his disappointment,—and accordingly retired to the continent.

“ In a change of place,—in a variety of amusements,—and even in the follies of dissipation,—he sought for that peace which he could not find. The sorrows of his mind were too deeply rooted to admit of any immediate palliation. They possessed an obstinacy that seemed to threaten a length of existence equal to his own. The world, with all its gay delights, afforded him but a temporary remedy ; and he determined to change it for a life of solitude. He retreated, therefore, to a small town delightfully situated in *Savoy*, where he applied himself to severe and unremitting study.

“ In the progress of his literary pursuits, he began to find that ease to his heart which encouraged him to continue them. After three years residence in this place, he made a classical visit to *Italy*, and then returned
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to *England*;—but he no sooner approached his native shore, than he discovered, what he himself suspected, that the wound which love had made in his peace, was not perfectly healed; and his former unfortunate prepossession, though greatly diminished in its violence, still lives in his heart.—He has, therefore, devoted himself to a single life, with all the qualities which would ensure happiness to the connubial state.

“ The circumstances of his earlier years, which were not generally known at the time, are now not known at all; and he is considered as an elegant, amiable and well-read man, whom every one loves;—but unhappily afflicted with those hypochondrical affections which every body pities.”

“ And the object of this worthy gentleman’s affection,” said Don Cleofas, “ may I be permitted to ask, what is be-
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come of her?"—"She is alive and well," answered Asmodeus, "and obliged to be satisfied. Her Lord is extremely dissipated, but at the same time contrives not to injure his fortune; and is continually running after other women, but has not, hitherto, shewn any disposition to beat her; and this is all the comfort she derives from him.—She has a son, indeed, a very amiable young man, who has been lately married to his charming cousin; and she now looks forward, with anxious expectation, to the happy time, when the young people will make a grandmother of her.

"My attention, however, is now called," said Don Cleofas, "to an object that does not look forward to enjoy the pleasures of such a character for many years to come, if she should wish ever to enjoy it at all. Maternal, or grand-maternal pleasures will not, I fear, compose any part of the happiness of her life: The lady who is coming this way, accompanied by a young man in
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a military habit, appears to be a coquette of the first order. How lively and animated are her looks! and with what a volubility of speech does she address the companion of her walk, as she passes along! With such a charming figure she must be daily making conquests; and, from what I have seen of her manners, I presume that she is equally well qualified to disdain them:—Like the last lady you were mentioning, she can, I fancy, take some little pains to create a passion, and then laugh at the fool for suffering it to torment him.”

“With respect to vivacity,” answered Asmodeus, “that must be visible to every one who sees her;—but her real character is only known to those who know her well; and from them she receives the tribute of regard and admiration which she so justly deserves. With all that uncommon flow of spirits which she possesses,—she neither wants prudence or sensibility; and there

is not, in this kingdom, perhaps, a woman of her age, or indeed of any age, who gives more proper examples of both.—She has good counfels for the unexperienced, and a friendly tear for the unfortunate; and while she is adorned with the softer virtues of her sex, that vivacity of disposition, which led you to form such an unfavourable opinion of her, enables her to support the troubles of a very embarrassing situation.—She is a widow; her husband, whom she dearly loved, and sincerely laments, died about two years ago, and, since that time, she has been engaged in a most troublesome, vexatious, and oppressive law-suit, with his younger brother, who was heir to his fortune, and refuses to fulfill certain bequests of a will made in her favour. In this contest, her resolution has been such, as to baffle her opponents, and will cause her final triumph over them.

“ So far from being a coquette, according to your suspicions, she has not a single trait of that character in her composition. Very great offers have been made her, and she might be married to-morrow, to splendour and titles ; but without making any foolish resolution against repeating the marriage vow, she has determined to remain in her present situation, till she is, one way or other, entirely freed from the very unpleasant circumstances in which she is at present involved. An history of them would occasion my engaging you in a scene of injustice, that is very foreign to our present pursuits ; I shall, therefore, content myself with informing you of an instance of her vivacity and spirit, during the winter, which, I am certain, will afford you no common satisfaction.

“ You must know then, that this lady had been assured, again and again, by those whom she well knew would never deceive her, that a certain vain young man of

fashion, who had the honour of her acquaintance, was continually throwing out hints among his friends, that she granted favours to him, which the first man on earth would not be able to obtain. It was not in her character, to condescend so far as to remonstrate personally with him on his impertinence, or to lament to her friends the cruelty of such an insinuation, and to beg some of them to revenge the insult. In this business, as in every other, she acted from herself; and accordingly took the opportunity, during a very inclement part of the winter, to send him a formal invitation to dinner, at her house, which is about three miles from town. The fop, elated beyond measure by this attention, communicated the circumstance, in all the eagerness of vanity, to his friends, exhibited the card, with all those cunning looks and half remarks, which were to denote what he wished to have supposed of the nature of his connection with the lovely woman: and, having arrayed himself in all the

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the elegance of a fashionable Adonis, was, on the day appointed, received by her with that easy politeness and frank good-humour, which distinguish her manners.— After a quarter of an hour had passed in the chit-chat of the day, and on the cruel continuance of bad weather, she told him that he would have but a whimsical dinner; ‘for,’ said she, in a sarcastic tone, ‘I shall take the liberty of giving you *your desert* first:’ and immediately ringing the bell, she ordered, in a very peremptory manner, the two servants who appeared on the occasion, to take the gentleman, and turn him, as unceremoniously as they thought proper, out of her doors; informing him, at the same time, that it was on account of the liberties he had taken with her character, that she now ordered the present liberty to be taken with his person. Whether it was from cowardice or astonishment, or an union of them both, I do not pretend to determine, but he submitted to the discipline without the least resistance; and this

butterfly of a drawing-room, found himself on an open road, and in a violent fall of snow, from which he had no means of sheltering his fine-clad form, but by applying to the protection of a broad-wheel waggon, whose slow progress gave him a most fortunate opportunity to reflect on his folly, and the proper manner in which he was chastised for it. The lady had previously invited a considerable party of her friends to pass the evening with her, the mirth of which was infinitely heightened by the lively manner in which she described the assignation and desert of the day."

So delighted was Don Cleofas with this most pleasant history, and so eager to express his satisfaction on the occasion, that he was in great apparent danger from a post-chaise and four, that was passing in great speed along Piccadilly, at the moment when he was crossing it.

"I must beg leave to interrupt your reflections, my dear friend," said Asmodeus,

deus, “ by asking you, if you took any notice of the gentleman in that carriage which hurried along so near you : ” — “ Indeed I did not,” replied the Count ; “ for, to tell you the truth, I do not believe that I shall, for some time, be able to think of any thing but the charming woman, whose becoming spirit and good sense excites my most sincere admiration.” — “ Be that as it may,” answered the Demon, “ I must not suffer the young man, with all his rapidity, to escape us. The errand upon which he is gone, may not excite in you a degree of wonder by any means similar to that with which you are now impressed ; for dupes and fools may be found in every quarter, while a *wise woman* is a *rara avis*, not often heard of, and less often seen.

“ This gentleman is an Officer of the Guards, who is related to a Peer of a singular but worthless character, whom he affected to treat, before his accession to the honour and fortune of his family, with a most ab-

solute contempt and abhorrence,—but to whose will, however absurd and imperious, since he is become a Lord, he manifests the most servile and disgraceful submission. This morning he has received a letter from his Lordship's Steward, which informs him, that his noble cousin has paid the last debt of nature, at the family seat; and that by his will, he succeeds to a legacy of ten thousand pounds, and a diamond ring of great value:—It also requests his immediate presence in the country, in order to attend the funeral.—In consequence of this information, he clad himself in the deepest mourning, and set off express, as we have just seen him, to pay the last sad duties to his deceased relation. He will arrive at the end of his hasty journey to-morrow morning; when, to his utter astonishment, he will find the noble Lord sauntering on the lawn before his house, in perfect health, and in very impatient expectation of this doleful visit, which he had himself contrived, in order to enjoy the confusion and the fables of his
amiable

amiable cousin; to laugh at the facility with which he was duped, and to hold him forth to the raillery of all his acquaintance. Such an impertinent, and even cruel exposure of him, the brave officer has not the spirit to resent;—but will endeavour to blunt the edge of his persecution, by joining in the laugh against himself.”

“I cannot help observing,” said the Count, “though I assure you, without the least intention to flatter, that you display a most happy judgment in contrasting the characters which you are so kind as to illustrate for my amusement and instruction.” “In order therefore to preserve the opinion your Lordship is pleased to entertain of me,” answered Asmodeus, “I must desire you to regard, with a very particular attention, the gentleman now crossing the street towards us, who wears such an easy smile on his countenance, and mutters his thoughts to himself, as he walks along.—He is a person, of great worth and a dupe,
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but of a very different kind from the last, for he confesses himself to be so.—Indeed, his dupery deserves a better name,—as it consists in an accommodation to circumstances which he knows not how to remedy. He himself, and I think without any perversion of the term, denominates it prudence;—and in speaking of him, I shall give you the portrait of what I call a *prudent husband*.

“ He is a man of rare qualifications and great fortune.—His natural abilities received every advantage that the most polite education could bestow on them; and he possesses all the experience that extensive travels, and the habits of public life can afford him.—With the most finished accomplishments, he is blessed with a disposition to make them acceptable to every kind of people,—and all who know him, love him.—Among men of literature, he is the polished scholar and chaste critic; in polite societies, he is the easy, well-bred man

man of fashion; and, in the more convivial parties, he is the jovial companion.—When he is in the country, he will follow the pleasures of the chase with ardour, and join in the mirth of the evening that succeeds it.—In short, he has the power of associating himself to every kind of allowable character, and the ready inclination to do it:—but he is married.—Very soon after his return from his foreign tour, he demanded in marriage the daughter of his father's most intimate friend: his proposals were accepted with unfeigned satisfaction, and he was soon united to the object of his wishes. *Matilda* was a beautiful girl, highly accomplished, and supposed to possess a very good understanding, when she was married to a man who was formed to make a sensible woman the happiest of her sex.—But from a foolish, wayward vanity, which was encouraged by his lavish indulgence, she sunk, in a very short time, into all the supercilious habits of a fine lady,—and became a perfect mass of sickleness,
non-

nonsense, and affectation. She even fancied herself above the general nature of her sex;—was superior to all those attentions and employments which afford so much real delight to the nuptial state, and resigned the whole business of domestic concerns, and all the cares of parental duty to her husband.—To dress, to attend public amusements, and to invent a fashion, are the active parts of her character:—to languish in her dressing-room, to be incapable of the least exercise, and to be alarmed at those exertions which are necessary to the common offices of life, compose the negative part of it.—Without being guilty of any actual vice, she never practises any actual virtue; and though she does not absolutely wish to give offence,—is very far from discovering any desire to communicate pleasure.

“He is unhappy;—for how can any man of sensibility be otherwise, when he finds his expectations of matrimonial comfort

fort so completely disappointed?—His fond attentions possessing all the uniformity of affection, are not always received, and very seldom returned with that kindness which they deserve;—and the manner of life most suited to his character and wishes, is continually interrupted by the capricious fancies of this unreflecting beauty.—She will determine, on a sudden, to go into the country; and as she is never contradicted, the immediate arrangements take place for complying with her desire.—In a fortnight, perhaps, her spirits demand a change of air, and some distant bathing place is thought necessary to relieve their languor. Her jewels are new set every winter,—the plate is frequently melted down to take a new form, and her coach is known to have been painted twice in six months.—Thus his amusements are obstructed, his agreeable societies are troubled, and the fruits of his studious enquiries blasted, by the elegant folly and uncorrected vanity of a fantastic woman.

“A select

“ A select party of real friends, for he has many of them, finding that the distant jeer or pleasant sarcasm, however varied and repeated, do not awaken him from that supine state of submission, which separates him from them, and keeps him a slave, where slavery is most unmanly and disgraceful, waited upon him so lately as yesterday morning, to remonstrate on the folly of his conduct, and to urge him, in the strongest manner, to save himself and the object of his affection, by spirited and timely exertions, from becoming the joke or the pity of all who know them.—He received them with his usual kindness, pleaded guilty, without the least reserve or hesitation, to all their accusations, and concluded his grateful answer to them in the following manner :—‘ I acknowledge the
‘ good sense of your reasonings, and the
‘ propriety of your counsels, and I feel my
‘ misfortune in not being in a situation to
‘ realize them by a practical obedience.—
‘ I know, as well as you, that I have been
‘ wrong

‘ wrong from the beginning ; an unlimited
‘ indulgence to my wife, has been attended
‘ with very unpleasant effects ; but what
‘ can be done ?—An alteration in my con-
‘ duct, would now be followed by the most
‘ unhappy consequences. There are, my
‘ friends, certain circumstances, and I feel
‘ myself at this moment to be surround-
‘ ed by them, when it is an act of pru-
‘ dence *to let a woman play the fool, for fear*
‘ *she should play the devil.*’

“ You may, my good friend,” said Don Cleofas, “ call this prudence, if you please, and it may be considered as such, by this very wise nation ; but the unenlightened Spanish husbands would vote, without a dissenting voice, that the Inquisition would be the fittest place for any one who should endeavour to promulgate such heretical doctrines.—For my part, I am clearly of opinion, that a woman who is permitted to play the fool, is in an actual state of preparation for the future game, and will

will never be satisfied till she has played the devil."

"You are in high luck," observed Afmodeus, "for here is one who would be very ready to support your argument.—Be so good as to observe the lady who is passing in a phaeton, drawn by four gray ponies, which she drives with all the dexterity of a stage-coachman.—She is a woman of family, and was married to a man of fortune, from whom she has been sometime separated.—She played the devil with her husband,—she now plays the devil with the man who keeps her,—and she will, one of these days, play the devil with herself." "I presume," said the Count, "that she played the fool first." "By no means," answered the Demon; "that part of the piece was performed by the gentleman who married her: and now, I trust, that we are pretty well agreed upon the subject."

"The

“ The person whom you see in that gilded chariot, is a vain, silly man, of considerable property, who is promised the rank of a baronet; and he is hastening to a bookfeller, who is about to publish the natural history of the county in which he lives. His important errand is to solicit, or, if necessary, to bribe a delay in bringing forward the work, till his patent is made out, that his name may appear in the list of subscribers, with the additions of his expected title.

“ Let your eye follow, for a moment, that elegant young man, who ran so hastily by us; and were you to live to the most extended period of human existence, you would never be able to guess from whence he is come, and whither he is going. You must know then, that he is just come from being married, and is gone to a fencing match. But it is the age of ease in this country; and the most important concerns of life are now treated with less ceremony than was formerly

merly thought requisite in the most common transactions.

“ That athletic figure of a man,” continued the Demon, “ who is riding slowly by us, with a shabby footman behind him, is one of those favourites of fortune, of which there are occasional examples.—He was originally an itinerant haymaker from Ireland, and afterwards advanced himself, by his muscular strength, to be an hackney-chairman : when, being sometimes employed by a libidinous, old, wealthy widow, she took such a fancy to his brawny form, that, from being her occasional servant, he became her constant master : she did not long survive her marriage, and left him a man of fortune. He now talks of his property,—makes minute enquiries into the rise and fall of the stocks,—examines the newspapers, to see what estates are to be sold,—and sometimes ventures into a petty gaming house, where he hopes to pass for a gentleman, by risking a little money.

money. From one of these places, however, he was last week discarded, with very great indignity, for attempting to pay a trifling debt of honour with a counterfeit guinea.

“ But while some men, my friend,” said Asmodeus, “ are indebted for fortune to chance or knavery, others experience a diminution of it from their very virtues :— Of the latter, that gentleman whom you see so very attentive to the loading of a waggon, is a very peculiar example.— That machine is preparing to bear away what he has reserved of the contents of a fine house he lately occupied in town, in order to decorate a cottage in the country. His history will amuse you,— and half a turn round the square which we are now entering, will be sufficient for the relation. It is as follows :—

“ He is a man of good family, and inherited a very handsome fortune on the death

death of his father, when he was about fifteen years of age. He was a most pleasing, but very singular boy; and, in the early part of his life, manifested all the traits of his present character. He was very attentive to his studies, and not inactive in his amusements, but possessed an uncommon tendency to that sober melancholy, which the duplicity of mankind, and the misfortunes of human nature, sometimes instill into the mind of advanced life, but is seldom seen to blend with the care-less joy of early years. It was impossible not to love a boy so pleasing in his manners, and so regular in his duties,—and his father doted on him.—‘There is but one fault,’ he would often say, ‘in this child of mine—which is, that he has no fault at all.’

“ He had been educated at home, under the care of his father, with the assistance of a neighbouring clergyman; and his improvements were beyond his years :—But,

without being guilty of any absolute impropriety, he gave to his actions a certain singularity which separated him from all descriptions of his age. He never neglected his studies for a moment, but he did not pursue them in a common manner; for he would sometimes bear his books and his papers to the distance of two or three miles, in order that he might prosecute his learning by the side of a murmuring stream, or beneath the shade of a favourite thicket.

“ The father, who knew the world, was much concerned to see his son growing up into a kind of character, which, however virtuous, learned or admired, would be but ill calculated to sustain itself against the arts and villainy of mankind. He therefore determined to send him to a public school, where it might be naturally expected, that he would soon be detached from that particular bias of mind, which threatened such alarming inconvenience to his future life. But this measure, however
prudently

prudently conceived, had not the desired effect :—his conciliating disposition, and amiable deportment, made such an impression on the minds of his school-fellows, that his peculiarities were either unobserved by them, or considered as agreeable qualities in him ; so that he found little or no interruption to the indulgence of his former habits.

“ At this period he lost his father ; and his guardians thinking, that they should best perform their duty by continuing his education as it was begun, left him, in every particular, to himself. He therefore went, in due progression, from school to college ; and, quitting the university, he entered on the career of foreign travel. He employed four years in this branch of his improvements ; and returned to England the same pleasing, pensive character he had ever been.

“ With

“ With a disposition so amiable, a mind so pure, and an heart so tender, it cannot be supposed that he would long remain uninfluenced by the power of love. He ennobled the passion by submitting to it;—and it was an union of all the best qualities of either sex, when the charming, the accomplished, the gentle *Lucinda*, received his heart, and returned her own.

“ They were married,—and became the happiest pair of human kind. They formed an example of connubial felicity, which did honour to human nature, and was not interrupted by any but those tender anxieties, which, by proving the unbounded affection of this amiable pair for each other, heightened the glow of their mutual happiness. But such a transient guest as man, must not expect an Eden in a world like this :— and Mr. ——— found it was no longer a paradise, when *Lucinda* left him, as it were, alone in it. On their fourth wedding-day, that lovely, excellent, and

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ever to be lamented woman died, in bringing a child into the world, which accompanied her to the tomb.

“ That he was most deeply afflicted at such a loss, it would be idle to repeat ; but he bore his affliction like a man, whose hopes rested on something more durable than the pleasures of perishable existence. He mourned with the most heart-felt grief, and will mourn, while he lives, the loss of his Lucinda :—The idea of repeating the matrimonial engagement never glanced across his mind ; and he loved the memory of his departed wife too well, to feel any emotion at the brightest blaze of living beauty.

“ But his heart, which was formed for tenderness, could not exist but under the influence of some generous passion ; and while mourning love possessed his thoughts, its best energies were devoted to the service of friendship.—In this noble career
I he

he proceeded, ridiculed by some, duped by others, and flattered by all; till, after several years continuance of good offices, he found himself with a diminished fortune; and, what surprised him, and certainly did not affect him less, with numerous enemies, and not a single friend created by his kindness. A particular circumstance of ingratitude, which would, at present, employ too much time to relate, at length opened his eyes to the ruin that threatened him. He has, therefore, gathered the remains of what he formerly possessed, and is on the point of retiring to a farm in a distant part of the kingdom. There he will live in the occupations of rural elegance, in the exercise of a circumscribed benevolence, and the practice of exemplary virtue. He will walk beneath the shade of trees planted by his own hands,—he will listen to the murmur of rills, which his pensive taste has courted from their fountains; and, as he leans on the urn inscribed with Lucinda's name, he will forget the ingratitude of this

world, and nourish those feelings which will prepare him for the enjoyment of a better."

"I should feel this story," said Don Cleofas, "as I ought, if my rising emotions were not overborne by an irresistible curiosity to know something of the lovely charioteer who is driving her lofty car so furiously by us.—Never did I see the lily and the rose so finely blended as on her countenance.—She seems to be the goddess of beauty and pleasure; and the trappings even of her horses are as gawdy as her own."

"And if all those charms were her own," said Asmodeus, "she might have some claim to your admiration:—but, alas! they are all borrowed; her's is an haggard visage, covered with the enamel of art. The woman is nothing better than a painted sepulchre; all fair without, and all rottenness within; and were you to approach her, you would soon perceive an hypocrite without the power of deceiving.

"She

“ She is a widow of quality, with a very large jointure ; and, in the spring of life, nature adorned her with those charms which she calls in the aid of art to imitate in autumn. Her youth was passed in folly ; her present time in something worse ;—antiquated coquetry, fashionable dissipation, and the trade of gaming.— Thus through the day she contrives to banish all serious thoughts from her mind ; while an opiate compels the sleep of the night. But this cannot last long—nay, it will be shortly over :—The season of remorse and decrepitude is at hand.

“ The little man that follows her on horseback, dressed in blue, with a yellow cape to his coat, is a foreigner.” “ And, by the darkness of his complexion,” said the Count, “ I should almost have taken him for a countryman of my own.” “ That however is not the case,” replied the Demon ; “ he is an Italian, and a noble of Venice, who is so attached to England, that

he spends a very large income in it. He sputters the language of the country,—boasts a familiarity with its customs,—and, as an incontrovertible proof of his intimate acquaintance with its government, he wears the livery of a political party. In short, he is so extremely partial to the English, that he imitates their very follies.

“Did you observe,” said the Demon, “the person in mourning, who was coming so hastily towards us, make a very sudden turn, and escape down the street to the right.” “I remarked him while you were speaking,” answered Don Cleofas, “and was rather disposed to imagine, from the apparent alarm with which he started, that, for some good purpose of your own, you had rendered your agreeable figure visible to his sight, to frighten him from his course.” “That would,” replied Asmodeus, “have been a much better reason for his motions, than I fear he is able to give.

“You

“ You must know then, that he has lately inherited a large fortune by the death of his father, who, during his life-time, allowed the young gentleman but a very slender income. At this period, he was most intimately connected, and in a continual society with a very worthy man, whose situation was as confined as his own: and whenever the narrowness of their present circumstances pressed home upon them, he used incessantly to repeat, ‘ Well, my dear friend, let us recommend ourselves to patience;—better times will come;—my father cannot live for ever—and when he dies, you shall share my prosperity with me. We will then enjoy together all those comforts of which we are now deprived.’ But since the wish for his father’s death has been accomplished, another wish has started up in his mind, which is, never to behold the face of his friend again. And it was the sight of that friend at the end of the street, that made him fly off, in a tangent, the contrary way.

“ I need not tell you,” continued Asmodeus, “ that jealousy is a very torturing inmate of the human bosom; that its objects are various, and its effects often fatal. I shall now give you a very particular example of it, in the lady who will shortly meet us, followed by a tall footman, in a laced livery, and a fine spaniel running by her side.

“ She has the command of a very large fortune, is in an exalted rank of life, and surrounded with the pleasures of it; beloved by her husband, esteemed by her friends, and approved by the world. She is not, as you see, past the age of beauty, and has still a claim to receive that homage which arises from the possession of it. But with all these advantages, she is miserable; and her wretchedness arises from a cruel jealousy, which is continually preying upon her repose. Such a circumstance, perhaps, may not surprise you; but when I add, that her husband is a pattern of connubial constancy,

constancy, and that she rewards his love with the purest returns of affection, you will naturally enquire after the object of that passion which creates the discontent of her life.

“ The answer is at hand; — she has a daughter. — The beauteous *Clara* made her a mother at the age of seventeen; and is now herself within a year of attaining the same period. The young lady is every thing that a parent could wish in a child; lovely in her person, elegant in her manners, and complete in her accomplishments: but, alas, she is five years too old for her mother’s peace: — The one is sixteen, and the other is thirty-three. The girl is too handsome to be kept any longer in a nursery, and is too amiable not to conciliate the regard of all who know her; but though she has sufficient penetration to see the cause of her mother’s occasional displeasure towards her, she has too much understanding to suffer the least appearance

of her perceiving it. In the mean time, this lady finds a very sensible diminution of the sacrifices to her own vanity, in the presence of the lovely Clara;—it is impossible for her not to discover that those attentions which used to be paid to her own charms, are now offered to her as the mother of a more charming daughter.

“ That such a character, in such a situation, must be miserable, will not admit the doubt of a moment. Ashamed of her weakness, and not daring to disclose it to her most intimate friends; having the object of her uneasiness continually before her, and being truly anxious to perform every act of duty and affection; at the same time, unable to resign those pretensions to admiration which her looking-glass tells her she still possesses, her life is a state of continual agitation and disappointment. But this is not all;—Clara has, within these few days, received proposals of marriage which cannot be refused;

fused ; and her mother will certainly die of vexation, if she should be made a grandmother at four-and-thirty.

“ But let me request you just to take a glance of the man who is, this moment, knocking at the door of that corner house. His appearance bespeaks him to be what he is, a plain trading citizen.” “ I really imagined,” said the Count, “ this part of the town was not inhabited by that class of people.” “ In general it is not,” answered the Demon, “ though it is rather become a fashion of late, for the wealthy merchants to grow ashamed of the spot where they were born, and to which they owe their fortune ; and, leaving the active part of the business to be carried on by inferior partners, to become inhabitants of this politer part of the metropolis ; from whence they pay an occasional visit to their accompting-houses in the city. This good man, however, carries the matter a little farther, and has brought all his remaining
C 6 stock

stock in trade along with him, which consists wholly and solely of a very handsome and accomplished daughter. The father considers her as a very pretty piece of goods; and expects, from the disposal of her, to make her fortune, and restore his own.—With this view, he has scraped together, from the wreck of an unsuccessful commerce, what will be sufficient to maintain an elegant domestic appearance for a couple of winters; in which time, he flatters himself, that the girl will win the heart, and receive the hand of some man of fortune. It is a very strange plan, you will say;—but, what is still more strange,—it will succeed.

“And now, my good friend,” said Asmodeus, “I must beg of you to favour me with a short leave of absence. A business of very great importance to my ministry, requires my immediate presence: but in order to furnish you with some amusement till my return, I must request you
to

to follow those two gentlemen who are clad in deep mourning. The one, as you see, is a young man, the other more advanced in life, is his guardian; and, in order to warn him against certain errors, to which his mind has a very leading propensity, he is determined to give him an account of the early part of his own life, as a lesson of exemplary instruction. They are going to take their seat in the garden part of a neighbouring square; and, as I will render you invisible to their sight, you may boldly place yourself beside them; when, if I am not very much mistaken, you will hear a little history that will amply atone for my temporary absence; and by the time it is finished, you may depend upon being re-joined by your faithful servant." The Demon immediately vanished, and Don Cleofas did not hesitate to follow the two gentlemen, as he was directed; and having taken his place by them, on a seat shaded by lilacs, in Portman-square, he heard the

the elderly gentleman begin his admonitory relation, as follows:—

‘ The happy friendship in which I lived
‘ with that excellent man, your father—the
‘ regard which, for his sake, I bear to you—
‘ and the desire to fulfil the important
‘ charge which he entrusted to me, by his
‘ will, and to whose duties he so warmly
‘ urged me, in his last moments—all com-
‘ bine to make your interest and happiness
‘ as dear to me as my own.

‘ From the observations I have made,
‘ and the accounts I have received of you,
‘ by those who have had the care of your
‘ education, I am fully persuaded that I
‘ have but one task to accomplish for you.
‘ It is not to correct your vices, for you
‘ have none:—It is not to awaken in you
‘ a sense of honour, and a love of what is
‘ excellent, for I most firmly believe that
‘ you already possess them:—But it is, if
‘ possible, to mingle prudence with your
‘ virtues,

‘ virtues, and by teaching you how to regu-
‘ late them, prevent the generous warmth
‘ of your character from perverting their
‘ ends, and rendering them finally injurious
‘ to yourself.—God forbid, that, standing
‘ as you do, on the threshold of the world,
‘ I should counsel you to take suspicion as
‘ a companion, on your entrance into it :
‘ I only wish to point out to you the dan-
‘ gers and difficulties you will be most like-
‘ ly to meet with in your passage through
‘ it ; and that being forewarned of them,
‘ you may be qualified to avoid the one,
‘ and overcome the other. I could repeat
‘ maxims, and continue a course of rea-
‘ soning on the subject, till the sun that has
‘ but lately passed its meridian acclivity,
‘ was sunk beneath the horizon ; but I shall
‘ take another, and, I trust, a more pleas-
‘ ing and effectual method to impress on
‘ your mind, the folly of exhausting, or, at
‘ least sickening your virtues and being
‘ profuse of your benevolence, in your early
‘ years ; and the wisdom of husbanding
‘ both

‘ both the one and the other; in order that
‘ you may be actively virtuous, and possess
‘ the capacity of doing good through the
‘ whole of your life.

‘ For this purpose, I mean, without
‘ reserve, to give you a faithful account
‘ of the days of my folly; and, amiable as
‘ it was, you will perceive, that it involved
‘ me in great and continual disquietudes,
‘ gained me no lasting reputation, and
‘ brought me to the brink of ruin. You
‘ seem, my young friend, to possess some-
‘ what of the same dispositions which
‘ marked the early part of my life; and by
‘ unfolding to you the various inconveni-
‘ ences which resulted to myself, from
‘ yielding an implicit submission to them,
‘ I trust, that you will resolve to exercise
‘ a wise, and, which in fact will be, a vir-
‘ tuous reserve, in the indulgence of them.

‘ I was born, in the language of the
‘ world, a *Gentleman*; and my father edu-
‘ cated

cated me in those principles and manners which form the constituent parts of that character. *Do nothing unworthy of a Gentleman*, was the continual admonition which I received from him, till I was about eighteen years of age; when he died, and left me the paternal estate as he received it, without having encreased it by his care, or diminished it by his extravagance.

The executor of his will, and the person whom he appointed to be my guardian, during the few years that remained of my minority, was a distant relation, and my god-father. He had been engaged in a mercantile profession, and possessed those cautious principles which are generally found to accompany a life of gain. He had, by patient industry, won his way from a small fortune to considerable wealth, and had just retired from the bustle of commerce, with fifty thousand pounds, and an unimpeached reputation, when

‘ when he became the director of my af-
‘ fairs, and the guide of my youth. Du-
‘ ring the university vacations, I was always
‘ with him, by his own particular desire ;
‘ and he appeared not only to be fond of
‘ my company and pleased with my atten-
‘ tions, but used to tell his intimate ac-
‘ quaintance, that he intended to make me
‘ his heir.

‘ As he generally thought proper to con-
‘ sult me in all the immediate concerns of
‘ his life, it cannot be supposed, that in a
‘ matter of such a serious nature as a ma-
‘ trimonial engagement, he would manifest
‘ a want of confidence in me. He asked
‘ my opinion, therefore, of a marriage he
‘ had some thoughts of proposing to an
‘ elderly widow lady of small fortune, in
‘ his neighbourhood ; who, he said, was
‘ qualified to make him such a companion,
‘ as would greatly add to the comfort of his
‘ remaining years. At that time I could,
‘ with great ease, have turned him from
his

his purpose ; and though it was hinted to me, that such an event might prove injurious to my interest, I thought it would not be *acting like a Gentleman*, to suffer any sordid considerations to govern my opinion in a matter that related to the happiness of one who had been so kind to me. I therefore advised him, by all means, to consult his own satisfaction ; and he immediately made such proposals to the lady, as she did not hesitate to receive.

The wedding-day was soon appointed, and every thing being arranged for the ceremonials of it, I thought it would become me to appear *like a Gentleman* on the occasion ; and I accordingly ordered a very handsome suit of white and silver, to grace the solemnity.

As my new relation behaved with great attention to me, I had no apparent reason

son

‘ son to be dissatisfied. I was indeed told,
‘ that she was endeavouring to undermine
‘ my interests with her husband, and that
‘ even the complimentary appearance I had
‘ made at her marriage, was continually
‘ held forth as a certain symptom of that
‘ extravagant spirit which would, one day,
‘ bring me to ruin.—But as it was not
‘ *like a Gentleman* to be suspicious, I doubt-
‘ ed the truth of the information, and took
‘ no methods whatever to thwart the secret
‘ arts by which she finally converted my
‘ infatuated relation to her purpose.

‘ When I entered into the possession of
‘ my estate, I thought that it would be
‘ *acting like a Gentleman*, to keep up the
‘ hospitable character of the family man-
‘ sion, by entertaining my friends, feasting
‘ my tenants, and regaling my neighbours.
‘ My late guardian and his worthy lady
‘ partook, in appearance, of the general
‘ joy :—But this festival had cost me two
‘ hundred pounds; and though this expence
‘ was,

‘ was, by no means, incompatible with my
‘ fortune, or improper on such an occasion,
‘ it was eagerly seized on as an additional
‘ cause for discontent in the old gentle-
‘ man’s bosom. The having expended
‘ forty pounds in one suit of cloaths, and
‘ two hundred pounds in one entertainment,
‘ were circumstances, when artfully sepa-
‘ rated from the occasion of them, that
‘ were fully sufficient to alarm the cauti-
‘ ous temper of my good relation. On
‘ these grounds, therefore, his kind wife
‘ took every opportunity of haranguing
‘ against my turn for dissipation; and never
‘ failed to lament, that his fortune, which
‘ had been gained by a long series of in-
‘ dustry and toil, would be wasted in all
‘ the extravagance which she did me the
‘ honour to connect with my character.

‘ My worthy godfather held out for a
‘ considerable time, but at length yielded
‘ to the persuasions of an artful woman;
‘ and made a new will, in which my par-

• ticular advantage was no longer particu-
• larly considered. Hints were given me
• of these proceedings, and it was in my
• power to have turned the tide in my fa-
• vour: but I thought it would disgrace
• me, *as a Gentleman*, if I pursued the steps,
• or engaged in such practices as would
• have been effectual to the purpose. I
• therefore, left the whole to time and
• chance; and when, a few months after,
• time put an end to my relation's life, I
• found that chance had dealt scurvily by
• me in his will, by which I was bequeathed
• a legacy of no more than five thousand
• pounds, to be paid on my attaining the
• age of twenty-five; when, by a former
• will, which was still in being, ten times
• that sum had been left to my immediate
• disposal.

• That there was some irregularity in
the construction of this unfavourable will,
• I am very certain; and I was assured,
• from very good authority, that if I applied
to

‘ to a court of Equity, there would be a
‘ very great probability of its being set
‘ aside, and of establishing the former one,
‘ in which my advantage had been so ma-
‘ terially consulted. But I could not,
‘ *as a Gentleman*, apply to the chicane of
‘ law, to oppose what I believed, in my
‘ conscience, to be the real design of my
‘ deceased relation; and when it was sug-
‘ gested, that the very threat of a Chancery
‘ suit would terrify the widow into terms
‘ of great advantage to me, I replied, that
‘ *I was a Gentleman*, and would be content
‘ to starve as such, rather than obtain the
‘ greatest fortune by any means which were
‘ incompatible with that character. I
‘ therefore put on my mourning suit, paid
‘ my visit of condolance to the triumph-
‘ ant widow, kissed her hand when she
‘ presented me with a mourning ring, and
‘ triumphed also, in my turn, on the reflec-
‘ tion, that no consideration whatever,
‘ could possibly induce me to do any thing
‘ *unworthy of a Gentleman*.

‘ While

‘ While my relation lived, a regard for
‘ his good opinion, and a wish to render
‘ my conduct conformable to his senti-
‘ ments, kept me under a restraint which
‘ his death at once removed. I therefore
‘ took an house in the neighbourhood of
‘ Grosvenor-Square, furnished it with ele-
‘ gance, and saw my friends in a manner
‘ that became me, *as a Gentleman*. Though
‘ I was a single man, I was much attached
‘ to a domestic life, and by keeping a
‘ plentiful table, made my house the resort
‘ of men of fashion, taste and literature.—
‘ I was known to be rich, and believed to
‘ be generous; so that continual applica-
‘ tions were made to me, by some or other
‘ of my acquaintance, for loans of small
‘ sums; and as I thought it would be *be-*
‘ *coming in a Gentleman* to refuse pecuniary
‘ assistance to those whom he invited to his
‘ table, my purse was always open to their
‘ demands. At length, however, my ban-
‘ ker, who had been a particular friend of
‘ my father’s, paid me a visit, and took up-
‘ on

‘ on him to hint to me the imprudence of
‘ my generosity;—that money lent in this
‘ manner was seldom repaid, and that I
‘ should bring myself into a very disagree-
‘ able state of inconvenience, if I did not
‘ check my accommodating disposition.—
‘ On this subject did he harangue for some
‘ time, and I was on the point of thinking
‘ it *like a Gentleman* to turn him out of the
‘ house for his impertinence, when he in-
‘ formed me, that he had brought his ac-
‘ count, by which I would perceive that
‘ the means of immediate supply were al-
‘ most exhausted. This circumstance at
‘ once calmed my impatience; as I did
‘ not then know that it was possible for
‘ any one to support the *character of a Gen-
‘ tleman* without a farthing in his pocket.
‘ I came, therefore, to the immediate reso-
‘ lution of following my good banker’s ad-
‘ vice;—narrowed the plan of my expen-
‘ ces,—saw but little company,—and re-
‘ newed my attention to literary pursuits.

‘ Among my more particular friends,
‘ was a West-Indian, whom I first knew at
‘ Oxford :—He had married a most agree-
‘ able woman, and lived in all the splen-
‘ dour of fashionable life. He was conti-
‘ nually pressing me to consider his house
‘ as my own ; and as the society I found
‘ there, was always pleasant and amusing,
‘ I frequently accepted his invitations,
‘ and passed much of the time which I
‘ could spare from my own avocations, in
‘ his agreeable family. Being one day at
‘ dinner with him, and several of our com-
‘ mon friends, a party of myrmidons rushed
‘ into the room, and arrested him for the
‘ sum of two thousand pounds. He was
‘ distressed beyond measure at the circum-
‘ stance, his lady fell from her chair in
‘ hysterics, while all his friends moved off,
‘ by degrees, from the melancholy scene ;
‘ so that when he began to recover him-
‘ self a little from the disorder into which
‘ this accident had thrown him, he per-
‘ ceived that I was the only person whom
‘ this

‘ this unpleasant event had not driven from
‘ his side.

‘ When I considered the intimacy in
‘ which we had lived, it appeared to me,
‘ that, *as a Gentleman*, I could not leave
‘ him in distress; and that, *as a Gentleman*,
‘ I could not but offer him every relief in
‘ my power;—I, therefore, *as a Gentleman*,
‘ engaged to become responsible for the
‘ debt, if it was not paid within a limited
‘ time. Thus was my friend restored to
‘ his liberty; and when I dined with him
‘ again, the following day, I had the satis-
‘ faction to see both himself and his family
‘ reinstated in their accustomed tranquillity.

‘ For my own part, I thought no more
‘ of the business,—was perfectly contented
‘ with my having acted so much *like a Gen-
‘ tleman*, and took my leave of town, to
‘ pass my summer in the country. But
‘ even in the peaceful shade of rural retire-
‘ ment, my leading principle continued

‘ to distress me; and various circumstances
‘ took place, which were of a nature suf-
‘ ficient to open my eyes as to the possibi-
‘ lity of a man’s *acting like a Gentleman*
‘ till he had not a farthing in the world.

‘ But a more serious and experimen-
‘ tal conviction of this truth was yet
‘ behind; for, on my return to *London*
‘ for the winter, I found that my West-In-
‘ dian friend had decamped for *Jamaica*,
‘ without giving the least notice of his de-
‘ sign to any of his acquaintance; and be-
‘ fore I could obtain any satisfactory in-
‘ formation concerning the cause of his
‘ departure, I was called upon to fulfil the
‘ engagements I had entered into on his ac-
‘ count. This was a matter which re-
‘ quired some consideration; and on my
‘ not expressing a disposition to comply
‘ immediately with the demand, I was ar-
‘ rested, in my turn, at the door of the
‘ Opera-House. As my lawyer could not
‘ be directly found, I had the pleasure of
‘ passing

‘ passing a night in all the comforts of a
‘ spunging-house. Here, however, I was
‘ informed, that this West-Indian friend
‘ of mine, for whose sake I was in such a
‘ disagreeable situation, after having spent
‘ his fortune, had become an adventurer of
‘ the first class,—that there was not a single
‘ acquaintance, of whom he had not, in
‘ some degree or other, made a dupe ; nor
‘ ever employed a tradesman, without
‘ attempting to defraud him ; that he had
‘ left the kingdom, in order to avoid a
‘ gaol ; and that his wife, who had been a
‘ party to all his tricks, was just taken into
‘ keeping by a man of large fortune. This
‘ history hurt me more than my own dis-
‘ tress ; and I felt a kind of triumph, that
‘ though I had been a dupe, I was still
‘ *a Gentleman*. The next morning, when
‘ my lawyer arrived, I soon procured my
‘ liberty ; and, on examining the state of
‘ the claim against me, he advised me to
‘ have recourse to a Court of Justice ;
‘ which, in his opinion, would, without

‘ hesitation, discharge me from the heavy
‘ and cruel demand. But as the engage-
‘ ment was sincere on my part, when I
‘ entered into it, I was determined, at
‘ all events, that it should be fulfilled.
‘ It would be acting, I said, in a *manner*
‘ *unworthy of a Gentleman*, to do otherwise:
‘ so I paid down a part of the money, and
‘ gave security for the rest.

‘ At this period, a valuable living in my
‘ gift, was on the point of becoming va-
‘ cant, by the expected death of a very aged
‘ incumbent;—and a sum of money more
‘ than sufficient to pay what remained of
‘ the debt I had so unfortunately incurred,
‘ was offered me for the next presentation.
‘ Though I, at first, was disposed to think
‘ that simony was not a very *gentlemanly*
‘ business, yet as it would relieve me from
‘ the very *ungentlemanly* situation, as I
‘ thought it, of being in debt, I was deter-
‘ mined to accept the proposal; when I
‘ received a letter from an old friend and
‘ school-

‘ school-fellow, who begged leave to re-
‘ mind me of a promise I had long made
‘ him of the living in question ; and ex-
‘ pressed his anxious expectation that I
‘ would now fulfil it. I did not recollect
‘ any thing like a promise of the kind :—
‘ But what was to be done ?—The very
‘ idea of forfeiting my word, was so repug-
‘ nant *to the sentiments of a Gentleman*, that
‘ I determined not to risque the imputa-
‘ tion of it ; and therefore gave the living
‘ to the person who demanded it, as a mat-
‘ ter of promise, without expressing a doubt
‘ to him on the rectitude of his claim.

‘ Thus did I live in a rigid adherence
‘ to the admonition of my father, without
‘ gaining any one point, but the satisfac-
‘ tion of obeying it. I determined, how-
‘ ever, to avoid all scrapes for the future ;
‘ and having received the legacy of five
‘ thousand pounds bequeathed me by my
‘ godfather, I got rid of my little incum-
‘ brances, and resolved to preserve myself

‘ from future inconvenience, by as much
‘ prudence and precaution as the charac-
‘ ter of a *Gentleman* would permit.

‘ The business of the arrest, I must ac-
‘ knowledge, lay upon my mind ; it was
‘ a circumstance that I could not think of
‘ without great mortification ; it wounded
‘ my feelings, as a *Gentleman* ; and as the
‘ dissolution of Parliament was then ex-
‘ pected, I determined to screen myself
‘ from all possibility of similar dishonour,
‘ by obtaining a seat in the House of Com-
‘ mons. On making known my inten-
‘ tion, I had an immediate offer to be
‘ elected for a certain sum, without any
‘ trouble, or even personal appearance.—
‘ But I thought it would be more con-
‘ sistent with my character, as a *Gentleman*,
‘ to be chosen by those who knew me ; I
‘ therefore became a candidate to be repre-
‘ sentative of a borough which several of
‘ my family had already represented. Thus
‘ I engaged in a contested election ; and,
‘ after

‘ after an infinite deal of trouble, perplex-
‘ ity, and personal exertion, I was returned
‘ to Parliament at twice the expence for
‘ which I could have obtained the senatorial
‘ honour, without any inconvenience
‘ , whatever.

‘ Independence of any party I considered
‘ as the essential point of Parliamentary
‘ character : and to maintain my dignity,
‘ *as a Gentleman*, who was to submit to no
‘ base compliance on the one hand, or
‘ enter into any factious views on the other,
‘ I determined to act according to the cool
‘ suggestions of my own mind, in support-
‘ ing or opposing the public measures of
‘ Government. Thus, by sometimes vo-
‘ ting with the Ministry, and sometimes
‘ with Opposition, I was considered as of
‘ no consequence by either, and very often
‘ ridiculed by both.

‘ After three years diligent attention to
‘ my Parliamentary duty, it did not appear

‘to me that I had done much good, and
‘it was very evident that I had acquired
‘no importance;—I determined, there-
‘fore, to alter my course of life,* and to
‘direct all my future views to domestic
‘pleasures :—in short, I resolved to marry.

‘A gentleman who lived in my neigh-
‘bourhood, had three amiable daughters ;
‘and to the eldest of them I made such
‘proposals as were immediately accepted.
‘Her father had been a barrister at law,
‘of considerable eminence, and had lately
‘retired from the hurry and fatigue of the
‘bar, to pass the rest of his days on his
‘paternal estate.—Report, indeed, did not
‘speak favourably of his professional life ;
‘but with what justice, I did not trouble
‘myself to enquire, as I could not suspect,
‘that, when he retired to live *as a Gentle-*
‘*man*, he would suffer the tricking spirit
‘of the lawyer to accompany him. I there-
‘fore did not doubt his sincerity, when he
‘told me that he should crown his daugh-
‘ter’s

ter's marriage with a portion of ten thousand pounds, and a security for the succession of an equal sum after his death.— The settlement I proposed was handsome, and the wedding-day was shortly named. But, on the preceding evening, while I was indulging myself in pleasing reflections on the happiness that awaited me, the old gentleman came, in great apparent perturbation, to inform me that, from a variety of unexpected circumstances, all of which he enumerated, it was impossible for him to advance, at that time, the money he had engaged to give me with his daughter; and therefore proposed, with many expressions of concern, to postpone the marriage for six months.

This circumstance, I must own, did not please me;—but I thought it would manifest a suspicion which was beneath the *character of a Gentleman*, to doubt the promise he then made me. Besides, it seemed to me, to be wholly inconsistent

‘ with the *feelings of a Gentleman*, to wound
‘ the delicacy of a most amiable woman,
‘ by putting off my marriage from confi-
‘ derations of such a sordid nature :—I
‘ therefore married her the next day, and
‘ contented myself with her father’s verbal
‘ engagement for the payment of her for-
‘ tune at a future period. But before that
‘ period arrived, he was called upon to
‘ fulfil an engagement which no chicane
‘ can baffle, or artifice delay :—In short,
‘ he died as he sat in his chair, and while
‘ he was on a visit at my house. The day
‘ after this unexpected event, my two sis-
‘ ters-in-law, brought me a small box,
‘ which contained his papers, and desiring
‘ me to look for his will among them, reti-
‘ red, to mingle their griefs with those of
‘ their sister.

‘ In a very short time I found two wills ;
‘ the one had been made previous to my
‘ marriage, the other, immediately after it.
‘ In the former, he had bequeathed his
‘ fortune

‘ fortune in equal proportions to his three
‘ children; but, by the latter, he left the
‘ whole of his property to his two unmar-
‘ ried daughters, without mentioning even
‘ the name of my wife.—I was almost pe-
‘ trified at this act of injustice. Indeed
‘ the idea of destroying the latter will came
‘ across me, nor do I now think it would
‘ have been in any degree dishonourable
‘ to have done it:—Nay, I do most freely
‘ acknowledge, that I was deliberating with
‘ myself, whether I should not throw, what
‘ I considered as a most fraudulent and cri-
‘ minal instrument, into the fire, when hap-
‘ pening to cast my eyes towards a picture
‘ of my father, which hung over the chim-
‘ ney, it seemed to say to me, *do nothing un-*
‘ *worthy of a Gentleman.* I therefore hasten-
‘ ed to communicate to the ladies the last
‘ testamentary disposition of the old gentle-
‘ man.—My wife was immediately seized
‘ with hysterics; and I really believe that
‘ the shock would have, in the end, depri-
‘ ved me of her, if the generous affection of
‘ her

‘ her sisters had not assured her that their
‘ father’s injustice had not made them un-
‘ just; and that, as nothing ought, so no-
‘ thing should exclude her from sharing
‘ his fortune with them. This design they
‘ afterwards insisted on fulfilling, in the
‘ most honourable manner; but my wife
‘ was such a treasure in herself, and their
‘ generosity was so peculiarly calculated
‘ to awaken adequate returns, that I did
‘ not think it would become me, *as*
‘ *a Gentleman*, to accept their generous
‘ proposal; and I most peremptorily re-
‘ fused it.

‘ These amiable women, however, to
‘ my very great regret, did not long sur-
‘ vive their father; and their sister, at
‘ length, inherited the whole of that for-
‘ tune of which paternal injustice intended
‘ she should not even receive her natural
‘ share. Since that period, I have lived
‘ but little in what is called the world;—
‘ and have learned, at last, that a liberal
‘ spirit,

‘ spirit, unaccompanied with a controuling
‘ prudence, is an extreme folly, instead of
‘ an elevated virtue.

‘ Thus have I given you, for your in-
‘ struction, a very faithful account of some,
‘ among the numberless inconveniences
‘ which I have suffered from an erroneous
‘ principle of always *acting like a Gentle-*
‘ *man*. And I cannot, after all, but thank
‘ my lucky fortune, which, in spite of my
‘ romantic notions of *doing nothing unwor-*
‘ *thy of a Gentleman*, has preserved me
‘ from being a *Beggar*.’

At the moment that the story was concluded, Don Cleofas saw Asmodeus approaching. He immediately joined him, and they proceeded on their morning stroll. “Well, my friend,” said the Demon, “I hope the time of my absence has been employed to your satisfaction.”—“Perfectly so,” answered the other; “I have been entertained with a very fine picture
ture

ture of the errors of a good heart, and the follies of mistaken virtue.—In short, it appears to me, that poor human nature has enemies enough in itself, without requiring the assistance of your fraternity.”—“Nevertheless,” replied Asmodeus, “human virtue is sometimes too strong for us all, as it has actually proved this very morning;—when a beautiful woman, and a widow into the bargain, has fairly baffled us all. Her charms have made a very deep impression on the heart of a young man of the first rank; and she has not only generally discouraged him from following her, but most carefully avoids every place where he might have an opportunity of speaking to her. Puzzled and perplexed at her conduct, but yet more in love than ever, he this morning determined to fall from his horse, as if by accident, just before the door of her house; and I left you,” continued the Demon, “to exert my influence, for the purpose of getting it opened on the occasion: but though I contrived to
draw

draw her to the window at the moment this event took place, when I imagined that common politeness and humanity would operate in favour of our stratagem, her pride suppressed it all; for the moment she saw what was going forward in the street, she sent her *femme de chambre* with the most peremptory orders, that no one should be admitted into the house, on any pretence whatever.

“ This lady is of a very good family, and therefore has a certain dignity to support;—she also possesses a large jointure, and is, therefore, superior to all offers of pecuniary gratification:—And as for vanity, which is such a leading movement in the female machine,—that, at present, operates wholly against us.” “ But has she not,” demanded Don Cleofas, “ a friend you do not think proper to mention, and whose name is Conscience?”—“ Oh,” replied the other, smiling, “ let us but once get her vanity on our side, and I will soon contrive

contrive that her conscience shall give us very little trouble.—But you shall see, or hear, at least, more of this little plan hereafter.

“ At present I must request your attention to the person on horseback, who is talking to a plain looking man with a whip in his hand. He must be ranked, without hesitation, among the favourites of fortune. His history is briefly as follows :—

“ He is a native of *Ireland* ; and in the earlier part of his life, found it convenient to attach himself to a woman, who, from having been a well-known lady of pleasure, had advanced herself to be the mistress of a fashionable brothel. Her purse was, at this time, very serviceable to his views, and enabled him to appear on the turf,—a place where all distinctions are levelled,—with some eclat ;— and such was his success, that he was, at length, enabled to purchase the most famous race-horse of the

the day, for which he gave the very large sum, as it was then thought, of fifteen hundred pounds ; and this hard bargain made his fortune :—for that animal, in the quality of a stallion, has produced him, for many years, a very great income, and given him various other advantages, which have made him a very leading character in the racing calendar. However, to his honour be it said, that, in the day of his prosperity, he did not forget the friend of his adversity ; but made her as much an honest woman as he could—by making her his wife. He now keeps a very fine stud of horses,—lives in a stile of elegance,—gives excellent dinners,—and, in the society of the turf, mixes with many of the first persons in the kingdom. In the gambling of the horse-course, in which foul play is, sometimes, allowed to be fair play, he preserves a respectable character ; and, in private life, he does better things than many, who, in the opinion of the world, are thought to be better men.

“ But

“ But while this man has made a large fortune by the possession of an horse, the gentleman with a black cravat round his neck, and half-boots, who this moment joins him, has been brought to ruin by a similar circumstance. His evil stars made him master of an Arabian courser, to whose fancied merits, and those of his breed, he has been so fatally infatuated,—that by a continuance of losing matches for large sums, and as frequent bets for more, together with the great expence of his unprofitable stables, he is become so reduced, as to be obliged to dispose of his very valuable collection of paintings, antiques, and drawings.—Indeed he will be more fortunate than he has lately been, or than unpardonable imprudence deserves, if, in the end, he escapes the misery and disgrace of a prison.”

“ But I see a young well-dressed man,” said the Count, “ with a fine nosegay in his hand, whose looks as well as his hasty steps,
mark

mark the impatience of his errand. It is, I suppose, to offer his bouquet to the bosom of his mistress, before it has lost the freshness of the garden from whence he has gathered it." "Your supposition, my friend," answered Asmodeus, "is at once natural, gallant, and like yourself; but unluckily it is not true. The gentleman is certainly on an embassy to ladies; not however, to carry a nosegay, but a malicious *bon-mot*, which he has heard within this quarter of an hour: but so great is his speed, that he will have lost it by the way, and give his fair friends an opportunity of laughing more at him, than they would have done at his story.

"That gentleman who has passed us," said the Demon, "in a post-chaise and four, charged with such a quantity of heavy baggage, is also gone upon an errand which will turn out very different from his present expectations.

“ This worthy man has but one enemy in the world,—but that is a very formidable one;—it is his own heart, which is inhabited by all those sensibilities that are sometimes known, and not very unfrequently, to impel a man so near the very verge of what is wrong, as to make it a doubt, with unreflecting people, as to the reality of his character.

“ For his part, he never did any thing in his life but with the best intention in the world; and yet he is continually doing something that requires more trouble to justify, than the good-humour of mankind will think proper to take. The action offers itself to public examination, and the motive remains a secret,—so that his errors have been frequently imputed, by those who viewed them at a distance, to an imperfection of character, when they arose from nothing more than the power of his heart over his judgment.

“ But

“ But another unfortunate circumstance about him is this;—that while he has ever been the slave of his own heart, this very heart has been continually the slave of some fair object or other.—In short, he has ever been in love; and, by nature, was formed for constancy;—but an unkind return he met with in the early part of his life, though it has not hardened his heart, has rendered it of a more transferable nature.—It is almost unnecessary for me to add, that he has been a dupe to women.—He has fallen in love with a maid-servant, and thrown away those attentions upon her, which would have won any woman, in any station of life.—He has taken a prostitute from the streets, to the comforts of his own house.—He has dreamed of restoring her to innocence, and making her a companion for himself.—Nay, when he found his endeavours were vain, he has wept over her fate.—By whom has he not been deceived? The friend in whom he trusted—the servant in whom he confided—the mistress

trefts whom he loved—have all played upon his fenfibility, and made it fubfervient to their own advantage.

“ At length, however, he perceived the weaknefs which has fo long perplexed and difgraced him ; but, at the fame time, is convinced that there is no other mode of faving himfelf from its future inconveniences, but by flying from thofe objects which have called it forth. For this purpofe he has juft quitted *London*, to pafs the reft of his days at the antient feat of his family, which he has not feen for many years ; and has not the leaft fufpicion, that before he has refided there a week, he will be violently in love with the daughter of the parfon of his parifh.”

“ I wifh him a good journey, with all my heart,” faid Don Cleofas ; “ but my curiofity is employed on a much more interefting object.—I fhould be glad, with your affiftance, to travel through the hiftory

tory of that charming woman in deep mourning, followed by a black boy, in a fantastic livery." "You will then, my friend," replied Afmodeus, "have but a very short way to go; and a few minutes will take you to the end of your progress. The lady is an impure of consequence, and the favourite of a young Duke, to whom she is really constant while he remains in town; but when he is in the country, she practises constancy with twenty young men of fashion, who take that opportunity of offering their services to her. She is the daughter of a country clergyman, whose life has long been embittered by her conduct, and is at length shortened by it. The good man, about a fortnight ago, died of a broken heart. She has put herself, as you see, into deep mourning on the occasion; and this is the only mark of respect, if it may be thought to deserve that name, which this amiable daughter has ever shewn her father.

“ Permit me, at the same time,” continued he, “ to recommend to your notice, the wretched female who solicits her, with repeated entreaties, to purchase a nosegay. She too was once an admired beauty, and lived in all the luxury of splendid prostitution: but dissipation, folly and disease, have long since brought her to her present miserable situation; and it is more than probable that the haughty fair who now disdains to hear the tale of her distress, will one day experience the same forlorn condition and unpitied allotment.

“ But by way of relaxing the benevolent gravity of your countenance,” said the Demon, “ I must beg of you to observe a man of a pleasant appearance, who is now crossing the street, with a lady hanging upon his arm, and three children walking before them. He is a gentleman, and an author—who helps a small fortune by the employment of his literary talents. He has fancy, knowledge and industry, and de-

serves

serves well of society and his country ; for he contrives every year to produce a well-written book and a fine child. And his wife, who is a very clever, as well as a very pretty woman, assists him in both."

"The circumstance is at once pleasant and affecting," said Don Cleofas; "but it must be from your suggestions alone, that I can reconcile the character of a gentleman with that of a man who writes for money."

"Spanish pride may dictate such a sentiment," answered Asmodeus, "but the inhabitants of this enlightned country (and it is a proof of their wisdom) are of a different opinion. There are Peers of the Realm, who have received the profits arising from their literary labours, without suffering any diminution of their character ; and I would suggest it to your understanding, whether it be less honourable to derive emolument from adding to the stock of human knowledge, than to receive the wages even of a sovereign, for the idle attendance

on a court. Indeed, to deal sincerely with you on the subject, I cannot discover any good reason why high-birth should disdain those advantages from its literary qualifications, which it is ever ready to receive for military duties. Honour is equally to be felt and obtained in the study as in the field. *Alexander* preferred the studious labours of *Aristotle* to his own splendid conquests; and, for my own part, speaking as a man, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the fame of *Cicero* to that of *Cæsar*.—But we will leave the consideration of these great characters, who are no more, to observe upon those who are passing before us.

“ You may not, perhaps,” continued he, “ have observed that green carriage, with a lady and several children in it but this is, in fact, the fifth time it has passed us in our morning walk. She is the wife of an honest man who, some months ago, was a leather breeches-maker of repute,

pute, in this city ; and being heir-at-law to a very rich old miser, who died without having had the courage to make a will, has unexpectedly succeeded to a large fortune. The good woman being now elevated above her former acquaintance, and her former employments, and not having, as yet, found any to succeed them, passes the greatest part of every day, to use her own expression, in riding about the town in her coach ; while her husband, fatigued with having nothing to do, and being without any society in which he can amuse himself, envies every man he sees sitting cross-legged on a shop-board ; and regrets the day when he was taken from stitching doeskin, to be made a gentleman. Indeed the favours of fortune, much oftener than people think, turn out to be no favours at all.

“ Here is one, however,” continued Asmodeus, “ who never will assent to such an opinion. The grave, elderly man, in the

carriage that will in a few moments pass rapidly by us, is a physician of great knowledge and merited eminence in his profession; but whose love of money is, at least, equal to his medical abilities; and you will be convinced that I do not misrepresent him, respecting his avaricious propensities, when I have related to you a little anecdote, which has been a good deal talked of, and laughed at, during the last fortnight.

“ Among the great variety of sick persons who look for health and restoration at his hands, there was a gentleman, who having been long confined to his bed, made it his constant practice to prepare himself with the necessary fee, by having it ready in his hand, against the time when the doctor generally arrived to pay his daily visit. — However, it so happened, that, one morning, death suddenly took possession of the sick man, at the moment of the doctor's arrival. He, however, thought it right to take another look at his late patient;

tient; and, on a professional examination of his body, discovering the usual guinea in his hand,—‘Ah!’ said he, in a tone of much sensibility, ‘my poor friend possessed his generous feelings to the last.’—The doctor, therefore, took the piece of gold, and was preparing to transfer it to his pocket, when the nurse stepped forwards, and stating her right, according to immemorial custom, to whatever the deceased gentleman had about his person, at the time of his death, put in her claim to the guinea.

“The doctor, at first, treated her pretensions with a contemptuous displeasure; but finding that she was resolute in her demand, he proposed to settle the matter by dividing the treasure between them.—The nurse, however, scoffed at his proposition; and placing herself against the door, declared, in the most peremptory manner, that he should not quit the chamber without yielding the whole of the golden

prize that he so unjustly withheld. The doctor, who was not in the habit of letting any good thing escape from him, which he had once got in his possession, began, at length, to threaten violence; when the nurse accused him, in a voice sufficient to alarm the whole house, of having robbed the dead.—The servants, roused by the noise, from their distress on the recent death of their master, repaired hastily to the chamber; when, after the nurse had related her story, the doctor found himself under the disagreeable alternative of giving up the guinea, or undergoing the discipline of a blanket. He therefore, without hesitation, determined on the former, and retreated to his carriage amidst the hisses of the whole household.”

“There is certainly something ludicrous in the story,” said Don Cleofas, “but, at the same time, it is rather calculated to excite aversion, than merriment; and, I must beg of you, my dear friend, if I should

should fall sick during my stay in this country, that this most excellent doctor may not be called in to cure me.”——“Your prejudice, my good Lord,” replied the Demon, “is very amiable, but it will not, by any means, coalesce with the concerns of life.—If a man does the business well on which you employ him, what, in the name of common sense, have you to do with the foibles of his character? You may have a confidence in a physician, without respecting him as an individual. This very doctor is known to possess consummate professional skill, and people send to him for his advice, which he will sell to any body,—and not for his money, which he will give to nobody.”

“But what can be the matter with that gentleman on horseback,” said the Count, “who has just dropped his whip from one hand, and his gloves from the other, and continues his course as if he knew nothing of the matter?”——“He is a very silly fel-

low," answered the Demon, "whom I must, nevertheless, take the liberty of introducing to your acquaintance, that you may laugh at him, as his servant does, who is now picking up the articles which have escaped his master.

"With a very slender understanding, this young man has, somehow or other, adopted a respect for men of genius, and possessed himself with an ardent wish to obtain a rank among them:—But the method he employs to satisfy his ambition, is equally singular and ridiculous. Having formed an opinion that absence of mind is the leading characteristic of great talents and superior knowledge, he assumes it upon every occasion, where his idle fancy suggests that it can have the desired effect of procuring him the credit of that intense meditation which is the habit of a profound mind.—He will, at table, pour wine into his soup, and cover his potatoes with jelly, and swallow them both, as if he knew not what he
had

had done.—He will walk out in his garden with one foot clad in a shoe and splendid buckle, and the other in a scarlet slipper. He will take a book from his pocket, and presenting it to a by-stander, recommend his snuff as just imported from *Paris*; and he will offer his snuff-box to another, and ask him if he has ever read that ingenious author.—He will then, as if awakening suddenly into recollection, exclaim, with a shrug, ‘What strange beings we absent men are!—We are really guilty of such continual absurdities, that I wonder we are not discarded from all society.’

“ But this man of genius has so much precaution about him, that he is never known to do any thing disagreeable or injurious to himself.—He is never seen to put salt into his coffee, or to send away his plate, till he has satisfied his appetite.—He does not ride against a waggon, or risk being run over by a coach, or let his fire out in a frosty morning.—He is always

upon the watch to exhibit his symptoms of genius, when they will not be attended with any inconvenience.—Nor would he have dropped his whip and his gloves this morning, if his groom had not been behind him to have picked them up: and if the man had accidentally passed them by, he would, on his return home, have been immediately discharged for his negligence. In short, he is, as it were, always awake in order to appear to be asleep; and exerts a never-failing presence of mind, to catch the most seasonable opportunities of putting on a total absence of it.”

“Let us not, however,” said Don Cleofas, “follow his example, by keeping our present position; or we shall be borne down by the enormous mass of flesh and blood that is approaching us, and engrosses the foot-way to itself. Never did I before behold so large a body upon one pair of legs; and it really surprises me much that they possess a degree of strength sufficient

ficient to support it."——"Your astonishment then will be greatly encreased," answered Asmodeus, "when I assure you, that the favourite amusement of this comely gentleman is dancing; and that when an opportunity offers, he never fails to exhibit himself in a minuet." "And is there not one person in the world," exclaimed the Count, "who loves him well enough to turn him aside from such a foolish propensity?"——"As for that," replied the Demon, "he has friends in plenty; but he in reality possesses so many amiable qualities, that they cannot bring themselves to give him the pain of laughing him out of one ridiculous failing. There are some follies of such an amiable nature," said the Demon, "that a good-natured man can scarcely bring himself to speak harshly of them. Of this opinion you have just heard a singular example:—but there are others equally innocent, which every sensible man must hold in contempt; and I shall proceed to afford you an instance in that gentleman,

gentleman, whom you see at this moment getting into a chariot, the pannels of which are covered with the mantle that decorates his arms.

“ If you visit him in town, he shews a portrait hanging over his dressing-room chimney-piece, which he tells you is that of his grandfather ; and, opening his cabinet, he presents, with great care, to your examination, an old half-obliterated Lieutenant Colonel’s commission, given by George the First to his grandfather. He then fatigues you with a long pedigree, that proves this same grandfather’s descent, in a regular line, from one of the first Knights of the Garter. At his table he has always some strange old-fashioned piece of plate, for which he apologizes to his company, as very inelegant,—but it belonged to his grandfather.

“ In the country, he continues the same story ;—nor will he suffer you to finish the
common

common salutations on your arrival there, before he forces your attention to the picture of a man clad in armour, and mounted on a prancing steed, which is the principal ornament of the great hall. ‘That portrait,’ he will say, with an air of great consequence, ‘was painted by *Sir Godfrey Kneller*, and is a very fine resemblance of my grandfather.’ Nor will you have been half an hour in his house, before he has informed you, that the great bow-window was made, the stables rebuilt, the pigeon-house removed, the groves planted, and that three bells were added to the village peal by the same important personage. In short, it appears, from every part of his discourse, as if he wished you to imagine he never had a father. But the truth is, that the grandfather, by his extravagance, involved his estate in such a manner, that his son was obliged to enter into a profession; which, however, he followed with so much industry and success, as to enable him to leave the family property not only free

free from incumbrance, but considerably enlarged, to the present possessor whom you have just seen, You will acknowledge, therefore, that he has every reason in the world to be ashamed of his father !

“ I perceive,” continued Asmodeus, “ that your Spanish prejudice will not permit you to see this silly pride in the light it deserves:—I shall therefore offer another species of folly to your observation, in that lusty young man who is trotting down the street as fast as his horse can carry him.—He is a pleasant, careless fellow, whose immoderate love of pleasure will soon get to the far-end of a moderate fortune. All this he very well knows, but consoles himself with the firm belief that about the period when an extravagant disposition has finished his estate,—his dissipated conduct will have put an end to his life ; and that they will, of course, very conveniently expire together. But, alas ! this curious calculator will be woefully mistaken : for he
will

will live to curse that sturdy constitution which prolongs his life, in all the misery of neglected poverty."

"The fool who reasons upon his folly, and bids defiance to the effects of it, deserves no pity. But I very much wish," said Don Cleofas, "that you would shew me a wise man, if it be within the reach of your power; or is it beneath the gravity of wisdom to walk the streets?" "By no means," answered Asmodeus; "and the gentleman whom you see knocking at the door of a small house, on the other side of the way, has an indubitable claim to that character.

"He is a man of family, who being fatiated with the dissipation of a single life, turned his thoughts, about five years ago, to the more rational comforts of matrimony.—At this time two ladies were the objects of his attention, and distracted his choice.

choice. *Sempronia* was beautiful, vain and wealthy: *Honorina* was as amiable as she was handsome, but without fortune. He consulted his friends on this important occasion; and, according to their advice, he chose the former, and entered into all the dissipation of married life. Such was the disposition of *Sempronia*, that from a violent love of pleasure and splendour, she had already contrived to make her husband get rid of one half of his estate, when she fortunately died;—and he is now on the point of marrying *Honorina*, in order to preserve the remainder.”

“ I rather imagine,” said the Count, “ that my good friend has mistaken the nature of my request; for this wise man seems to me to have been as great a fool as any who have preceded him. He prefers a woman because she had a fortune, when he did not want it; and at the moment when his property is so greatly reduced as
you.

you represent it, he marries another without any fortune at all."

"There may be something smart in the observation," said Asmodeus, "but it is not founded in truth: it is very possible for the virtues of a wife to prove a more profitable portion than a profusion of riches.—But, to return to our subject:—If you really wish to see a human being who was never guilty of folly, and is invulnerable to error, you must seek him in some other system; for such an one is not to be found in this. I would recommend you therefore to lay aside your impracticable theory, and treasure up the following maxim as an incontrovertible truth,—That the man, who, from a sense of past errors, reforms his future life, is, in the most enlarged sense of the expression,—*a wise man*.

"But here is one whose wisdom, perhaps, may be more suitable to your fancy. Regard, therefore, I beg of you, with your
most

most favourable attention, the person dressed in black, who is on the moment of meeting us.—Observe the nicety of his peruke—the elegance of his gold-headed cane—and above all the self-complaisant smile that enlivens his countenance.

“ He is a clergyman ; and was, for several years, as he stiled himself, librarian to a certain Lord of a very indifferent character, who had not fifty volumes in his house ; but, in fact, he was the willing minister of his pleasures, and the faithful confidant of his most secret thoughts and actions. He flattered him to his face,—praised him in his absence,—attended him in his amusements,—and never failed to laugh at his Lordship’s jokes, whether he or any other person was the object of them. In short, he so wormed himself into the regard of his noble protector, that he was, at length, presented by him to a living of considerable value. But no sooner was he inducted, with all the necessary ceremonials,

ceremonials, into his fat rectory, than he assumed a new character ; and in the visit of thanks which he paid to his patron, after expressing, with great gravity, the most sincere acknowledgements for his late kindness, he hoped his Lordship would excuse him, if he then withdrew from his society. ‘ He was now,’ he said, ‘ become the shepherd of a flock, whom it was his duty to instruct by example, as well as precept ; that, in his new situation, he had a character to support, and a reputation to maintain, if not to acquire ; and that he must, therefore, be no longer considered as an associate of his Lordship’s, unless he would reform his life in such a manner, as to render a communication with him no longer a disgrace.’—The noble Lord considered all this grave harangue and solemn demeanour, as a piece of buffoonery, contrived and put on for his amusement ; but on finding himself mistaken, his astonishment gave way to his resentment ; and, with a prelude of some
very

very animated oaths at hypocrisy, rascality and ingratitude, his Lordship, without any ceremony, kicked the conscientious divine down stairs; and recommended him, in the strongest terms, to the further discipline of his servants, who, by similar applications, very quickly conveyed his Reverence into the street. The Christian teacher, however, bore his persecution with the patience that became him; and consoled himself with this reflection,—that though an angry Lord had kicked him out of his house, all the Lords in the kingdom could not kick him out of the benefice.”

“The comedy ends,” said Don Cleofas, “as it ought to do; for both parties meet with their deserts. The noble Lord found the merited returns of mortifying ingratitude, for having bestowed a religious office on a person so very unworthy of it; while the clergyman received the discipline he deserved, for his audacious hypocrisy. But he may reform, perhaps,” added he, smiling,

ling, "and become *a wise man*." "That I deny," replied Asmodeus; "for though wisdom may follow, and even, as it were, proceed from error, it will never be found to influence a mind that has been corrupted by the habits of low cunning, petty knavery, and abject submission."

"That lady," said the Count, "in the black coach, that stops immediately before us, has, amidst all her fables, such an air and look of content, that I should imagine she has lately got rid of an husband who was a dead weight upon her." "Your conjecture is perfectly well-founded," answered the Demon; "but there is a secret circumstance in her conduct with which the world is not acquainted. The very day after the poor good man was buried, she was privately married to an handsome young officer of cavalry, whom she had long regarded with an eye of concupiscence. She retains, however, a very proper regard to the delicacy of her situation, and is determined

terminated to keep the matter a profound secret, unless she should find herself in a premature state of pregnancy :—If that should happen, she will, at once, avow her marriage, and submit with patience to be the talk of the town for a fortnight : if, however, such a circumstance should not take place, she will wait till the usual term of mourning widowhood is expired ; and then re-marry her present husband with all the eclat of nuptial splendour.—Thus proceeds the business of life.”

“ And here is the closing scene of it !” exclaimed Don Cleofas, “ for the whole street is filled with the pageantry of death. What a sad and solemn array do mine eyes behold ! The nodding plumes—the painted escutcheons—and the waving banners, all tell me that some poor mortal has left his titles—honours—and his wealth behind him, and is going to take his last sleep in the sepulchre of his fathers.” “ Of wealth indeed,” said the Demon, “ he had great
store ;

store ; but honours, titles, and even virtues, he had none.—Gold was his idol and his god ; to obtain that, he defrauded the rich, oppressed the poor, and almost starved himself.—Indeed, he died from the miserable avarice of employing an ignorant journeyman apothecary, who undertook to cure him at a cheap rate, with his master's drugs. The heir of his fortune, however, is determined, though he passed through life like a beggar, that he should go to his grave like a gentleman.

“ With this *memento mori*,” continued Asmodeus, “ we will, if you please, close our present ramble ; but instead of the dulness of *a tête à tête*, at your hotel, I will introduce to you a coffee-house, where you shall enjoy the novelty of dining in public, and be made acquainted, at the same time, with a class of characters very different from those, which, I flatter myself, have amused your morning's excursion.” While the Count was expressing

his consent and his acknowledgements, they arrived at the door of an house, which announced in letters of gold, its fourfold capacity of Coffee-house, Eating-house, Tavern, and Hotel.

CHAP.

CHAP. IX.

*What the DEVIL upon TWO STICKS shews
DON CLEOFAS at the Eating-House, &c.*

“THIS is a place,” said the Demon, on entering the public room, “where people take the different regales of the different times of the day. They who frequent it at this hour, are, in general, single men who do not keep house, married men, who prefer any society to that of their own families, and such accidental guests as your Lordship and myself. I will order your repast, and while it is preparing, will endeavour to give you a sketch of the respectable personages around us.”

“That little man in black,” said Afmodeus, “at the table opposite to us, is laying down the law most consequentially to his company, which consists of a young hofier, and the surgeon of a merchant ship.

He gives the characters of eminent lawyers, describes their respective merits and qualities, exhibits specimens of their eloquence, and speaks of statutes, reports, and special pleadings, with all the importance of profound information.—His auditors, who are so polite as to listen to him with as much attention as if they really understood every word, give him entire credit for all he utters; and so they ought,—for he has been several years train-bearer to a judge.

“The man who eats and talks at the same time, in the seat adjoining, is haranguing, in broken sentences, on the important articles of British wealth and commerce; and he speaks of the funds as if he had an hundred thousand pounds invested in them. With the current coin, indeed, he is very familiar—for he is a banker’s clerk, and counts out more money in a day, than he will possess in the course of his life.”

“There

“ There is a smart young man,” said the Count, “ who is regulating his watch by the coffee-room clock ; the fashionable neatness of whose appearance interests my curiosity.” He is a doctor,” answered the Demon ; “ but his medical skill is not for the use of men, but of inferior animals. To speak more intelligibly, he is a farrier ; and not only physicks horses, but shoes them into the bargain. After he has taken his dinner here, he will, in all probability, go to the play, and flirt in the box-lobby with women of the town ; who may, as you have done, mistake him for a gentleman. He carries on his trade at the other extremity of the metropolis, and if you were to pass by his shop to-morrow morning, you would probably see him in his shirt and leather apron, engaged in taking a nail out of an horse’s foot, or driving one into it. But the gentility of his appearance remains to be explained.

“Some years ago, the distinction of ranks in this country, at least between the gentleman and the plebeian, were to be discovered in their respective dresses. The shop-keeper, however wealthy, would not wear lace or embroidery, as unbecoming his station; and the lower classes had an additional reason, that they could not afford to do it. It was left, therefore, to gentlemen alone to appear in cloaths of show and expence. A person riding on horseback, in a frock elegantly embroidered, could not but be considered as a man of genteel station; and any person of inferior class who aped that character, by adopting this or any similar distinction, could not fail of receiving that severe mortification which must follow the discovery of it.—His superiors would look down upon him with contempt for his impertinent presumption; while those of his own class would treat him as scurvily as the daw was treated in the fable, who is represented to have decked itself in the plumage of the peacock.

peacock. But, at present, the manners, as they relate to dress, are totally changed; and it may be truly said, that the superior ranks of life, in this particular, imitate the figure of inferior station. The polite world is now governed in personal appearance, by what is called ease and simplicity. Men of fashion affect the dress of common life; and I am very certain, if the experiment could be made, that the farrier before us, is, at this moment, as far as relates to the articles of his dress, as expensively habited as the heir apparent of the empire; and might, without any impropriety in point of his appearance, seat himself this evening in the pit of the opera, by the side of a nobleman whose horses he had shod in the morning. If a man of ten thousand pounds a-year goes into a retail shop to purchase an article, it is ten to one but he is served by a person more smartly dressed than himself. Nay, it generally happens, in families of the first rank, that the servants of the second table, appear at least

in as good cloaths as their lords; and if you go into any of the fashionable coffee-houses, the best dressed man in the room will prove to be the waiter.

“ This custom may promote the comfort, and in some degree perhaps lessen the expences of the higher orders; but it is of very prejudicial consequence to the lower classes of the people; by causing them to appear in places of amusement and public resort in such characters as may prove, from various causes, extremely detrimental to their private manners.

“ When a certain formality of exterior appearance was considered as a necessary passport to the boxes of a theatre, attornies clerks, hackney writers, and pastry-cooks apprentices, never thought of exposing themselves to the ridicule or the expence of such a situation. But since round hats, boots, and great coats are allowed admittance there, any man, of any rank, who
has

has half-a-crown in his pocket, may figure in a front-box; and the rough rider of a livery stable may, in the first seats of a theatre, indulge his vanity, by elbowing a Lord, or employ his impudence in staring at a Duchess. It is very possible for a gentleman, in these times, to turn aside from one man, for the vulgarity of his dress, whom he will afterwards discover to be a person of quality; and pay attentions to another, from the gentility of his appearance, whom he may, the next day, see behind a grocer's counter. But this is not all,—nor indeed the worst of it:—for, as I have before hinted, the fashion adopted by people of station and fortune, of dressing in a manner which is within the reach of every man's pocket, in this city, above a scavenger or a chimney-sweeper, may be considered as a public misfortune: as it evidently tends to elevate the views, and, of course, to corrupt the manners of the lower orders of people.

“ But to make you amends for this political harangue,” continued Asmodeus, “ I will communicate to you a pleasant little history, which the man in boots and spurs, at the upper-end of the room, is whispering into the ear of an elderly person who sits behind him. He is an assistant teacher at a riding and fencing-school, and makes love to the handsome *femme de chambre* of a lively young woman of quality, who, as a flattering mark of her confidence, informs him of all the secret transactions of her lady’s particular acquaintance. The story he is now relating is as follows :—

“ In the course of the winter, a young lady of fashion, who is not satisfied with one of the best husbands in the world, took an opportunity while he was in the country, to amuse herself with a handsome young nobleman, who is a particular friend of her family, and was so secure as to her manner of conducting the business, that she
ventured

ventured to make her own house the place of assignation : but the visits of her gallant were so frequent, and at such unseasonable hours, as to render the object of them a matter of suspicion to an old family butler, who had the honour of his master more at heart than his mistress. In consequence of his vigilance on the occasion, he saw what was, he thought, more than sufficient to justify the transmitting to his master certain apprehensions he entertained, that if he continued any longer out of town, he would very soon become the pity of one half of it, and the joke of the other. The lady, however, who had every reason to believe that this prying old servant had discovered something of her manoeuvres, employed the following ingenious device to prevent any unpleasant effects which might, otherwise proceed from her husband's being informed of them. She therefore wrote a letter to acquaint him that Lord ——— had paid her a visit on the preceding evening in a state of intoxication, which gave her

very great uneasiness; that she could not get him away till a very late hour; and when he at last yielded to her persuasions, he mistook his way; and after making an attempt to open her chamber door, blundered down the back-staircase. As this awkward accident, with the unpleasant circumstances of the visit, might have a singular appearance to the servants, she thought it extremely proper to inform him of it, to guard him against any disagreeable insinuation which the laudable, but mistaken zeal of some of his people might convey to him on the subject. She concluded her epistle with the warmest expressions of affection; and requested to be indulged with his immediate opinion, whether or not she should again receive Lord ———, as well as his full directions concerning the manner in which she should conduct herself on the occasion.

“ The respective letters of the lady and the butler, reached the worthy gentleman
by

by the same post, and produced two immediate answers.

“ The first expressed to his dearly beloved and excellent wife, a firm and undoubted confidence in her virtue, and treated Lord ———’s visit as a matter of pleasant ridicule, and desired that she would receive his noble and worthy friend whenever he presented himself at her door, in the same manner as if nothing had happened. The second contained an angry, and most positive assurance to the honest butler, that if he should ever dare to repeat any similar insinuations respecting the honour of his lady, the punishment would be an immediate discharge from his present situation.— The lady therefore has, ever since, received her gallant under the sanction of her husband’s positive injunction; and the old butler, in order to keep a place in which he has grown gray, is obliged to shut his eyes, and hold his tongue.

“ I should

“ I should rather suspect,” said Don Cleofas, “ that a certain friend of mine aided the superior dexterity of this intrigue, which he has been so kind as to relate to me.” “ By no means,” replied the Demon; “ the lady, I assure you, has begun the business without any of my assistance, and will continue to carry it on with a degree of spirit and perseverance, that does not want, and, indeed, could scarcely receive any additional ardor from the exertion of my powers.—Perhaps, when the husband makes one of the party, I may make another, in order to forward the winding-up of the piece.” “ I do not doubt it,” replied the Count; “ but, in the mean time, explain to me, if you please, the conduct of a short, squabby figure of a man, who ever since we have been in the room, has sat with a knife in one hand, and a fork in the other, as if he was waiting for his dinner.—What good or bad qualities he may possess, remains for you to inform me; but he
seems

seems to be blest, at least, with the virtue of patience."

"That man," answered Asmodeus, "is a glutton of the first order, in his rank of life; he knows nothing of fricasees and ragouts, &c. but is perfectly well instructed in the delicate morsels that are to be found in every joint of meat. He has now bribed the cook to let him know when the rump of beef is cut down to a certain part; he will then order his steak, and go into the kitchen to watch its dressing, that it may not be carried to any table but his own.

"There is another solo, and of a very different kind," said the Demon, "which I shall present to your very particular notice. It is the slender person who sits alone at a table in the middle of the room, in a round hat drawn over his face. He does not visit this place to get food for the body, but sustenance for the mind; for he is a collector

collector of news, and is employed to furnish articles of intelligence for a daily paper : for this purpose he frequents every place of public resort ;—coffee-houses—auctions—concerts—theatres—and every species of public exhibition ; where it is his business to make the best use he can of his eyes and his ears. He sees what is to be seen ; and gets further intelligence by conversing with some, and listening to the conversation of others : in this manner he caters for the press and the public.—This is an office that embraces every subject of human occurrence : there is nothing above its reach, or beneath its notice. Actions the most discordant, and things the most opposite, coalesce under his arrangement. In his memorandum book of to-day, he has already noted down articles concerning the Emperor of Germany and Powell the celebrated walker ; the Queen of Great-Britain, and a trial for *crim con* ; the King of France, and a criminal hung in chains ; a Knight of the Garter, and a Knight

Knight of the brush; the corporation of London, and an alms house for decayed merchants; the college of physicians, and and the learned-pig; the practice of the courts of law, and a mail-coach.— If a lady's hat should be blown off in walking up St. James's street, and a gentleman should recover it for her, and our collector be so very fortunate as to discover the names of the parties, it will prove a most precious article of interesting information. The overturning of a phaeton will always be of importance to him; but should a limb or two be fractured, it will be so much the better; and if the attending surgeon can be ascertained, so as to enlarge a little on his skill, the circumstance will be complete. The physician himself cannot be more delighted at the sickness of any person of consequence; it furnishes fees for the one, and articles of intelligence for the other.—Politics and pastimes, public characters and private anecdotes, are the leading subjects of modern newspapers.—As
for

for moral instruction and rational information, they are of too dull a nature to suit the fanciful vivacity of the present times. A paragraph enlivened with a pun,—an anecdote tainted with scandal,—or an article well seasoned with abuse, would now be preferred to a moral essay, written with the taste and ability of the Spectator. Indeed upon such very enlarged principles are these daily prints conducted, that truth itself is by no means essential to the intelligence they furnish. In short, a good memory, a good guess, and a rapid pen, the knack of framing a paragraph, of turning a compliment, or pointing a sarcasm—an active disposition, a callous heart, some courage, and a proportionable share of impudence, are the qualities essential to a writer, who is paid to form the heterogeneous mass of a daily print. But I shall have occasion to enlarge further on this instructive subject hereafter. You will excuse me, therefore, if I now refer you to a
very

very singular, and indeed amusing party in the next feat.

“ It consists of a parish-clerk, famous for singing psalms, and a musician, equally celebrated for his performance on the tabor and pipe: They have been for some time engaged in a musical dispute concerning the period when Jews-harps were first invented. The first has been contending for their antiquity, while the latter is of opinion that the instrument in question is an offspring of modern times, or, at least, is not of more antient invention than the tabor and pipe. The contest has been carried on with considerable warmth; and though, as you may suppose, it has produced many curious arguments on both sides, it has not produced any thing like conviction on either. They therefore applied themselves to an elderly gentleman, who is taking a dish of coffee at the same table, to determine the matter in question; and he has just informed them, with great candour, that

that the Jews-harp is certainly an instrument of great antiquity, and was invented at the same time with the tabor and pipe, when *Orpheus*, a famous musician, first taught Latin in Great-Britain; which he believes was about, or very shortly after the period when the Israelites made bricks for the Egyptians.—The disputants, who are perfectly satisfied with this very learned decision, are preparing to depart. While the newspaper-writer, who has overheard it, is, as you may see, occupied in noting it down, to form a curious chronological article in his morning paper of to-morrow.

“The little man at the table under the clock,” continued Asmodeus, “is by profession an architect, and is, at this moment, employed in scooping the inside of a French-roll, in order to convey to his companion the true principle upon which a water-closet ought to be constructed.—He talks of *Palladio* as if he served an ap-
prentice.

prenticeship to him; criticises St. Paul's, —determines that the banquetting-house at Whitehall, was not the design of *Inigo Jones*, — and pronounces Westminster-bridge to be, after all, but a clumsy chain of arches.—As for his contemporary architects, there is not one of them who deserves a name in his catalogue.” “His own works then, I suppose,” said the Count, “are perfect models of architectural beauty.”— “The establishment of his superior genius must be left for a future period,” answered the Demon; “for he has yet been employed only in erecting a couple of ruins for a gentleman in the country. One of these ruins is an imitation of a broken Roman arch; but the best of the two is a dwelling-house, which tumbled down just as it was covered in.

“The young man in mourning, to whom our modern Vitruvius addresses himself, is a jeweller and silversmith in the city. The fine watch-chain, that dangles
half

half way to his knees, was taken from the shew-glass in his shop, to answer the purpose of temporary pride; and he dines occasionally at this coffee-house, for no other reason whatever, but that he may have the pleasure of assuming somewhat of importance at his club in the evening, from having dined in a very large company at the west-end of the town.

“ Observe, if you please,” continued Asmodeus, “ the two men at the next table, who are drinking to each other with such an appearance of cordial regard. The elder of them is an author of eminence, in his line, whose particular genius leads him to make catalogues, frame hand-bills, draw up advertisements, and compose last dying speeches, &c. The other is an auctioneer, who treats him with a dinner, in order to be perfected, by his assistance, in reading the titles of some books, which are a part of some household furniture that he is to sell to-morrow.”

“ There

“ There is a young man,” said Don Cleofas, “ with his hair about his ears, in the seat next the door, who lolls at his ease, and is engaged in conversation with a person of his own age, in a scarlet coat, and a well-dressed head, that would not disgrace the shop-window of the most fashionable *friseur* in London.” “ I observe them,” replied the Demon; “ they are conversing together for the first time, and with a liberal spirit of communication, which is seldom to be found among artists—they are telling each other all they know in their respective professions.

“ He in blue remarks, that genius does little or nothing for a man, and that it is fortune or good luck which effects every thing. ‘ Sir *Joshua Reynolds*,’ he says, ‘ has great taste and some genius, yet without being able to draw an academy figure, is become the richest painter in Europe. ‘ *West* possesses great industry, very little genius, and no taste at all ; and yet this
‘ man

‘ man is employed and careſſed by Maſteſty,
‘ to the excluſion of every other artiſt.—
‘ *Gainsborough* repreſented the nature he
‘ had ſtudied in a maſterly manner,—but
‘ it was very common nature, never ſoaring
‘ beyond the homely ſcenes of rural beauty,
‘ and an inferior claſs of human characters.
‘ *Opie* can only paint old men and ugly
‘ women; there his vaunted merit ends;
‘ give him beauty to repreſent and he
‘ daubs,—give him grace to copy, and he
‘ caricatures. *Romney’s* pictures loo
‘ tolerably well in his own houſe, and very
‘ indifferent in any other, eſpecially if there
‘ ſhould be in the ſame room, a tolerable
‘ painting of another maſter. *Wright*
‘ performances have merit in their way;
‘ nevertheless he has obtained a degree of
‘ reputation which he by no means de-
‘ ſerves. People are very apt to admire
‘ natural repreſentations of familiar objects,
‘ without conſidering, or, perhaps, without
‘ knowing, that patience is the principal
‘ requiſite to produce them. The flame
‘ I , of

‘ of a candle—the blaze of a blacksmith’s
‘ forge—a bladder—or a mahogany table,
‘ are painted mechanically, like a flight of
‘ steps, or the flutings of a column.—
‘ *Barry* has genius, and classical feelings,
‘ but his colouring no where rises into
‘ warmth. It is passing strange, that the
‘ man’s temper should be so hot, and his
‘ view of nature so cold.—As for Mr.
‘ Alderman *Boydell’s* gallery of *Shakspeare*,
‘ it is, with all its parade and patriotism,
‘ a very partial business. That the un-
‘ dertaking is an honour to the nation,
‘ and will prove beneficial to the Arts,
‘ cannot but be acknowledged; but half
‘ a dozen pictures excepted, there is not
‘ a single performance that would be ad-
‘ mitted into any collection of character.
‘ Nor cannot it be denied by any one
‘ conversant in the Arts, that there are
‘ painters in this country, who have been
‘ neglected on this occasion, whose geni-
‘ us, if it had been called forth, would have
‘ spared the public eye from being disgust-

‘ed with much of the trash with which
‘the gallery is at present disgraced.’

“Such are the scraps of criticism which he has collected from the newspapers, or the conversation of academy pupils; and contains all he has to say on the art which he professes; for he also is a painter, and will be discharged to-morrow by the coach-maker who has employed him to decorate the pannels of a quack-doctor’s chariot, for having painted the figure Hope leaning on an anvil, instead of an anchor.

“His companion also laments the frivolous taste of the times:— ‘No encouragement,’ he says, ‘is given to the
‘higher order of theatrical merit; singing and buffoonery would now be preferred to those powers which were so much
‘admired in Garrick and Barry,—in Holland and Powell. Mrs. Billington and
‘Mr. Edwin will crowd one house to suffocation, while Mrs. Siddons is performing

forming to empty boxes at the other.—
Managers may have judgment, but what
can they do? they must submit to the
public caprice; and many an actor of
merit, is forced to subordinate parts
which disgrace him, because that line of
playing in which his excellence would
appear, is neglected by the fashion of the
day,—This man, also, has his gleanings
of criticism; he is a retainer at one of
the playhouses, and is going home to re-
fresh his memory in the part he is to per-
form this evening, which is to repeat,
“past twelve o’clock,” three times, in the
character of a watchman, in a pantomime
entertainment.”

“I am prevented,” said Don Cleofas,
“from giving your critics the laugh they
deserve, by that tall figure of a man, in a
shabby great coat, and with a few gray
hairs turned into something like a curl, on
each side his meagre countenance: beneath
the exterior of poverty, he wears that
G 2 look,

look, and those manners, which tell me he has seen better days,—He is at this moment bowing, with an air of most humble submission, to the pleasant looking gentleman who is just quitting the table.” “And with some reason,” said the Demon, “for he is thanking him for having paid for his dinner; and it really concerns me, my friend, that I must be so unfeeling as to dissipate your present commiserating sentiments, by drawing aside the veil which covers a character of all others the most humiliating to human nature.

“That man, in the early part of life, possessed a most amiable and generous disposition; and, of all other men, was the most likely to do that kindness to others, which he now continually solicits for himself. But a singular chain of events have operated to produce a most wretched change in his nature, and brought him to practise those submissions from the impulse of avarice, which a liberal mind scarce knows how

to employ when urged by the most gripping necessity." "And is it possible," interrupted the Count "that a man can have brought himself to the most mortifying of all habits, from any other motive but the most bitter distress?"

"It is even so," replied the Demon; "for this person is not only superior to poverty, but is, at this moment, in a state of affluence which would enable him not only to keep an hospitable table, but to accompany it with the comforts and gratifications of genteel life. Nevertheless, he takes every opportunity of getting a meal in the manner he has just practised; and is not only contented, but makes it the great object of his life, to feed from the eleemosynary bounty of strangers, in order that he may add the pittance he allows for his daily expences, to the accumulating heap of his useless wealth.

“ The history of his progress from worth and virtue, to his present unexampled state of misery and baseness, will form the history of his life, and is as follows :

“ He was the only son of a well-beneficed and learned clergyman, and received every advantage from education, which his father, a public school, and the university of *Oxford* could afford him. He was already considered as a very accomplished young man, when his uncle, by his mother's side, who was a wealthy merchant, died, and left an only daughter, the heiress of fourscore thousand pounds, to the guardianship of our hero's father. By this circumstance an opportunity offered itself to make their son's fortune, which the old people did not neglect ; and their wealthy ward was no sooner marriageable, than they connived at, or rather forwarded a runaway match, which made her their daughter-in-law.—Nor could they, in point of happiness, have done better for her ; for though
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the advancement of their son was the principal object of this arrangement, it so happened, that the young lady obtained by her premature marriage, an husband who was devoted to her happiness, and made it the study of his life to prove, that both herself and her inheritance were well bestowed.

“ About three years after this marriage, he had the misfortune to lose both his parents in the same month; and what they left behind them was but just sufficient to maintain the young people in decent elegance, till the young lady should take possession of her fortune.

“ The day so impatiently expected, at length arrived, when she attained the age of twenty-one years; and a very large company of their friends had been previously invited, to share in the joys of it.— This excellent young woman, however, did not forget, in the midst of all these preparations, what she owed to the husband

she loved ; and therefore proposed, while they were at breakfast together, to send for a lawyer to make her will, and begin the happy day, by immediately securing her fortune to her husband ; which, as she had no children, would, in a failure of her bequest, pass away to some distant branches of her own family. He, on the contrary, insisted that a day set apart for so much joy and happiness, should not be interrupted by any ceremony of such a gloomy nature. She, nevertheless, continued to urge her proposal, and he, as steadily to refuse it :—she then entreated to have the liberty of calling in witnesses, to make a declaration of her intentions in his favour, which could be done in a moment, and would in fact operate, in case of any immediate accident, according to her wishes. This too was kindly denied her : in short, this contest of animated regard on the one hand, and delicate affection on the other, ended in his absolute promise, that on the following morning, her wish, in this particular,

ticular, should be completely gratified.—The day therefore was passed in the most joyful festivity, and a ball in the evening was to form the concluding part of it.—Animated by those sensations of pleasure which the occasion so naturally inspired, this charming woman danced beyond her strength, and about midnight was taken so ill, as to be carried immediately to her bed; a violent fever ensued,—a delirium quickly followed, from which she never recovered; and, on the following day, the wretched husband was deprived, in one moment, of his wife and his fortune.—I shall not trouble you with describing the misery of his situation; it is sufficient for me to observe, as you already know,—that he survived it.

“ His own little patrimony was, at this time, almost exhausted; but a few hundred pounds, of which the heirs of his wife could not deprive him, and a prize of a thousand pounds which he gained in the

lottery, preserved him from beggary, and, perhaps, from despair.

“ Though he was, at first, stunned by the very unexpected blow which he had received, he, in a short time, was so far recovered from it, as to turn his thoughts to the manner in which he should shape his course. The little he possessed, being insufficient for any purpose of comfortable maintenance, he was anxious to employ it in some probable scheme of advantage, and applied to the friends of his promised prosperity to aid him with their counsels, and forward his intentions, whatever they might be: but they all melted away, as it were, on his approach:—He could obtain nothing from the best of them, but civil pity; and was surprised to find, that he must depend upon himself alone for any advantage which might arise to him in his future life.

“ He determined, therefore, to quit a scene which afforded him not a single comfort

fort in possession or in hope, and accordingly purchased a commission in a marching regiment which was ordered to *Jamaica*. Though he adopted this measure from no other motive but its being the only one that presented itself, he had every reason to consider it as a very fortunate chance: from a sudden mortality among the officers of the regiment, promotion came very unexpected; and, in a short time, he found himself captain of a company, with the means in his pocket of commanding a further advancement. Indeed from his amiable manners, his various accomplishments, and his peculiar misfortunes, he was not only treated with regard, but cherished with kindness, by the generous Creoles.—It was not, therefore, considered as an example of unmerited good fortune, when he married the widow of a wealthy planter, with a very considerable jointure.

“ But, at this period, the character of our gentleman took a new turn;—by a de-

licate inattention to his own interest, he had once lost a large estate, and he was determined never to repeat it.—His own particular advantage was now become the chief, indeed the only object of his life ;—and he was resolved to reap all the benefits of his present situation, while it was in his power. Instead, therefore, of indulging his wife in her former elegance and hospitable mode of life, he curtailed all unnecessary expences,—lived in a state of unso- cial privacy,—fold his commission,—and gave himself up entirely to the view of providing, from the income he enjoyed by his marriage, the means of comfortable support, in case he should survive it.

“ The poor disappointed lady, who, instead of having a submissive, grateful, and envied husband, found herself under the controul of an avaricious master, made many unavailing efforts to turn him from his purpose. But instead of his yielding to
her

her intreaties, she was brought over, by his great personal attention and kindness, to be a convert to his system;—in short, after some time, she not only became contented with her situation, but adopted his penurious life, and forwarded, to the utmost of her power, the objects of his œconomy; so that, when at the end of twenty years, she quitted him for ever; he had, with her assistance, contrived to accumulate upwards of forty thousand pounds.

“ Soon after this event, he returned to his native country, where the love of money, and the habits of avarice, have so encreased upon him, that he pursues the miserable and disgraceful conduct which you have just witnessed. But this is not all;—he has other and more agreeable resources of advantage, from several elderly widows and maiden ladies, who form the whole of his acquaintance: to them he appears not in the garb of poverty, but as
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a gentleman and a retired officer, of small fortune, and they treat him accordingly.— To answer his purposes with them, he lives in a decent lodging, and sometimes assumes the genteel appearance of his time of life. Indeed, he is a kind of general beau to this female society, who are continually calling upon him to attend them to public diversions, or make one of their private parties, when he never fails of being rewarded for his trouble, by a delicate meal ; and reimbursing himself with interest, for the extraordinary expences which these duties occasion, by pilfering fixpences and shillings from the old ladies, at quadrille, and pocketing the charitable contributions, which, on one pretence or other, he is continually levying upon their benevolence.

“ When, however, he is without invitation from these quarters, and thinks it imprudent, or, at least, has not what he conceives a proper excuse, to invite himself,

self, he sallies forth on these marauding parties. On entering a coffee-house, he looks round to discover some one who wears the appearance of answering his purpose; and he never orders his breakfast or his dinner, till the probability of his object is ascertained. He then, with a very modest air, asks leave to sit at the same table with the person on whose pocket he means to levy his contributions,—commands a sparing meal,—enters into a conversation, which he knows how to conduct in a most agreeable manner; and when his gentleman calls the waiter to pay his expences, our hero hints his distress, and in a tone, accompanied with a look of genteel submission, requests his little matter may be added to it. In such applications he not only very seldom fails of success, but frequently receives an added present: and for these benevolences he is very frequently indebted to people who do not possess a tythe of his income. Nay, the gentleman who has presented him with
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the dinner of this afternoon, is a brave half-pay officer, covered with scars, and whose whole revenue does not amount to ten shillings a day."

"It is to be hoped, however," said the Count, "that he is thus iniquitously heaping up wealth for some one who will know how to employ it." "That may be the case," replied the Demon; "for as he will not have even generosity enough to bequeath it by a last will and testament, it will descend to his next heir; who, after a long enquiry, will prove to be that very half-pay officer, to whose generous nature he is become so lately indebted." "And I wish most sincerely," added the Count, "that the event was to take place this very moment." "Of that," answered Asmodeus, "I cannot perceive any very promising symptoms:— But to proceed—

"You must be, without doubt, very much surprised at the great variety of characters

ractions which have met together by chance, in the small compass of this room; but your astonishment will be called to a new exertion, when I inform you concerning those gentlemen who have dined at the table adjoining to our own. From their vicinity to us, you may have hitherto overlooked them,—but I must now desire you to favour them with your most particular attention.”

“ The experience I have acquired,” said Don Cleofas, “ since I have been in this coffee-house, is more than sufficient to make me very jealous of appearances; or otherwise, I should suppose those persons to be of a superior class to the generality of people who come to take their casual dinner at such a place as this:—their demeanour appears to be that of the higher ranks of society.”

“ Your conjecture, my good friend,” replied the Demon, “ is perfectly right; for

for one of them is the son of a man who was a king,—and the other will one day be elected to the sovereignty of a great nation; and by way of a curious addition to the circumstance, neither of them have money enough in their pockets to pay for the repast which they have just taken. . The bill for their dinner now lies upon the table between them, and when they have come to an explanation on the business, one of them will go to an acquaintance in the neighbourhood, to borrow the trifle necessary to extricate them both from their present difficulty.”

“ Indeed,” exclaimed the Count, “ my present astonishment is of such a nature as almost to amount to incredulity; and, with great submission, to your superior knowledge, I am very much disposed to consider this last exhibition to be for some amusement of your own, rather than for the instruction or entertainment of your humble servant.

“ My

“ My recreations,” answered the Demon, “ are of a very different nature ; and whatever they may be, will never make you, at least, an object of them. On the contrary, I very seriously assure you, that what I have already related concerning these distinguished personages, for it is forbidden me to enter into any further explanation, is the literal truth ; and if you will examine the lineaments of the man opposite to us, it is more than probable that, in the course of your future travels, you will recollect them ; when, instead of sitting, as you now do, at ease beside him, you will find it necessary to bend your knee before him.

“ It is to be hoped, however,” continued he, “ that your astonishment will not prove so very powerful as to sicken your appetite for the very fine capon that is now presented to you.” I hope not,” replied the Count ; “ nevertheless, my mind is entirely occupied by the circumstance you
have

have explained to me ; and if it were consistent with your plan of operations, I should consider it as a very great indulgence, if you could, some how or other, contrive for me a little accidental coffee-house conversation with these two extraordinary persons." "Your Lordship," said Asmodeus, "well knows my ardent desire to oblige you, but at present you must be so good as to dispense with my company for half an hour: official duty calls me hence ; but by the time you have finished your dinner, I will return to enliven your desert."

The Devil upon Two Sticks immediately quitted the room ; and Don Cleofas had already made a considerable inroad upon the good things before him, when he discovered, that while he had plenty of solid food, his negligent caterer had not provided him with what was necessary to moisten it.—He therefore began to call aloud for wine ;—but his demand being made in a language the waiters did not understand,

understand, a kind of distressing confusion ensued; when the future king, who was now alone, introduced himself in the politest manner to the Count, entreating permission at the same time, to have the honour of serving him as interpreter; and taking the seat which Asmodeus had lately quitted, exercised that office in the most obliging manner, till his dinner was concluded.—Don Cleofas then proposed coffee; and that kind of easy, pleasant conversation took place between them, which men of the world, though perfectly strangers to each other, can so readily adopt.—This agreeable communication lasted till the gentleman returned who had been to raise the supplies, as the Demon foretold; when the embryo sovereign, with his royal companion, took their leave; and their departure was immediately followed by the return of Asmodeus.

“And how has your Lordship passed your time since my departure?” said he,

as he took his seat. "Incomparably well," answered the Count; "and, thanks to your kind arrangement, the last wish I expressed has been most completely gratified: I need not tell you that your place has been occupied most agreeably, as well as usefully, by the very personage with whom I so much desired to have the opportunity of conversing; and when he ascends the throne, to which you assure me he is destined, my curious pride may, perhaps, sometimes dictate to me, the secret ejaculation that his Majesty, to use his own expression, has enjoyed the honour of acting as my interpreter."

"Your pride," interrupted the Demon, "may, in common with that of the rest of mankind, grow sometimes from little things; but I must not, however, suffer mine to be gratified by arrogating to myself the merit which does not belong to me. I really did not exert any portion whatever of my influence in the arrangement which
you

you attribute to me ; though I rather foresaw, but without employing that prescient faculty which, in certain cases, I am permitted to possess, that the ordinary course of things would lead, in this particular, to the gratification of your wishes. I well knew certain little wants would press themselves upon you, during my short absence ; I also could not but be sensible that you were deficient in the language necessary to make them known ; and I was equally well assured that it was impossible for the politeness natural to a man of high birth, who must be a witness of your embarrassment, to lay dormant on the occasion, and to fail in bringing him forward to relieve it.

“ Indeed, my [friend,” continued he,
“ much of the true art of life depends upon knowing when to leave things to their natural course ; as it is the principal merit of a physician to possess the faculty of ascertaining when nature is to be left to herself,

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herself, and when she requires the aid of medicine.—Many a man has gained a reputation for consummate ability in some of the principal, and which are considered as the most arduous situations in life, from no other employment of his wisdom, than that of leaving circumstances and things to their own natural operations ; while others have not only impeded, but baffled success ; and, of course, lost the applause due to their honest endeavours, by striving to produce effects from the interposition of their own exertions, which the uninterrupted course of natural causes, would, of themselves, have brought to complete maturity.”

Here the observations of Asmodeus were interrupted by a noise, which was immediately found to proceed from a little man, who was asleep over a bowl of punch, in a corner of the room ; and was snoring in a very disagreeable manner.—The Count proposed to order the waiter to silence the gentleman

gentleman by waking him :—" I beg leave to oppose that motion," said the Demon, " for he is a very quiet, inoffensive and amiable character, who never is in peace but when he is asleep ; and it would really be little less than extreme cruelty to awaken him to the reflection, that he has this very afternoon been driven, by the ill-humour of a termagant wife, from his own comfortable dinner, to take a casual meal in this place. Indeed, with such a partner as this poor man has got, it would be a great happiness to him if he were to awake no more."

" In such a situation," said the Count, " I should recommend the good people to get rid of each other at once, and look for happiness in other and more suitable connections. Such a plan is very easily proposed," replied the Demon, " but not so easily reduced to practice." No offence against the marriage contract, but absolute infidelity, can cause the dissolution

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of it. An husband and his wife may honour each other with the most cordial hatred,—they may order matters in such a manner as to bring down ruin upon themselves and their families,—they may exercise the mutual efforts of the most offensive malice, and lead a life of mutual injury, without being able to gain any effectual relief, while the chilly virtue of chastity is preserved: so that a man who is thus matrimonially connected, will frequently think himself happy in the ridicule and disgrace of cuckoldom, as the only possible mode of putting an end to his misery.

“ But to declare the truth,” continued Asmodeus, “ which, for your instruction, my friend, I occasionally force myself to do; it must be acknowledged, that the difficulty of obtaining matrimonial divorces, is a regulation perfectly consistent with the interests of civil society: for such are the caprices of the human mind, and the nature of the human passions, that a
general

general liberty of dissolving the marriage tie would be abused beyond all other ; and not only tend to destroy the most valuable sentiments, as well as the most endearing connections of private life, but occasion continual interruptions in the general and necessary order of public society. If it could be made compatible with the interests of any form of government, that an officer should be appointed with full powers to undo what the priest had done, his office would be the most troublesome, and if the fees of it were arbitrary, the most profitable, that has ever yet been established in any country."

"Though I have every reason," replied Don Cleofas, with a sigh, "to consider matrimony as the first of human blessings, for it was such to me ; yet I do not doubt but the profits of the office you have described, for one year, would enable the possessor of it to purchase a principality."

While he was speaking, a well-dressed young man entered the room, and, after having taken a turn round it, took up a newspaper, and seating himself at a table adjoining to that where the Count had dined; entered, to all appearance, on an attentive perusal of the chronicle of the day; when, as if suddenly recollecting himself, he turned round to the Spaniard, and in a very polite manner, demanded the hour of the afternoon:—The awkward look which the surprise of this unexpected question from a stranger, as well as the ignorance of the language in which it was delivered produced, and the instant laugh of the Demon on the occasion, had such an effect upon the gentleman's modesty, that he apologised for what he perceived was considered as an impertinent question, and in a state of evident confusion, immediately quitted the room.

Don Cleofas, who could not conceive the meaning of what he saw, informed his friend

friend of the impatience he felt to be indulged with an explanation of this extraordinary scene. “ I must entreat you then,” said the Demon, “ to prepare your faith as well as your astonishment for what I am about to unfold to you. The gentleman only asked you in a very civil manner, to inform him concerning the hour of the day;—in such an application, you may very naturally imagine, that there could be nothing of rudeness or impropriety; but, setting aside the immediate motive of the question, there was a great deal both of one and the other; for, in the first place, there is a dial in the room, which hangs up on purpose to answer such questions; and if it had not occurred to him to consult that oracle, the waiter was the proper person to satisfy his demand.—But, to tell you the real state of the case, the gentleman belongs to a gang of pickpockets, and he wished to see whether your watch was worth an attempt upon it; and when he had beheld the elegance and enrich-

ments of your time-piece, he would, with many thanks for your politeness, have taken his leave, to inform some of his party, who are hovering about the neighbourhood, of the circumstance ; and on your return home, they would have employed all their arts and contrivances to have eased you of that valuable bagatelle. The confusion in which this worthy person retired, arose from your look of surprise, and my burst of laughter, which made him suspect that he himself was suspected."

" I acknowledge my astonishment," replied the Count ; " but in a country so well and wisely governed as this, and whose laws are the envy and admiration of the whole world ;—how does it happen that such a bold and systematic invasion of property as you describe, is ever attempted ? or, at least, how can the practice of it escape the immediate punishment which it deserves?"

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“ The constitution of this country,” replied Asmodeus, “ is, with great justice, the envy of Europe ; but people consult their religion as little as their reason, when they expect benefits pure and entire, from any human institution : it is the nature of every thing in this world to be short of perfection ; and liberty itself, which confers so much happiness on the community that enjoys it, yields inconveniences which are not known in arbitrary governments. It is the liberty of this country which renders the police of this metropolis imperfect. The extirpation of these petty miscreants who purloin the property of the passenger in the streets, might be very easily contrived ; but the means to be employed on the occasion, would, perhaps, clash with the general spirit of the British laws : and the people are so very jealous of the forms of their government, that they would rather submit to the inconvenience of having their pockets picked, and the

inadequate punishment of such an offence, than give their consent to that summary and violent mode of proceeding which would effectually suppress it."

"I am not sufficiently skilled in the œconomics of this government," said Don Cleofas, "to reason upon the matter; and if I were duly qualified for the business, my present observations would be interrupted by the appearance of that old gentleman in black, who is, this moment, led into the coffee-room by his servant. He seems to be in a situation that requires the nursing of his own family, and the comforts of his own fire-side, rather than the noise of a public assembly, and the chilly air of an evening excursion." "But to avoid that fire-side," replied Asmodeus, or rather to save the expence of it, is a very principal motive to his passing a certain number of hours, every day, in this place.

"He

“ He possessed, for many years, a lucrative office under Government; and well knowing the value of money, and being skilled in the profitable application of it, he accumulated a very large fortune.—He has given ample provision to his children, and acted in a generous manner towards some of his grand-children; and, since the death of his wife, has employed his whole thoughts on heaping up future legacies for them.—In short, his former prudence has grown into present avarice, and being now too infirm to employ any active means of augmenting his wealth, he applies himself to the negative methods of gratifying his avaricious wishes, and looks alone for an increase of his riches, to the savings of a fordid frugality.

“ As soon as he has finished his dinner, he orders his fire to be put out, and pays his daily visit here. The first half hour is employed in quieting his cough, and fixing
H 5 him-

himself in the seat he means to occupy for the evening. He then enters upon the perusal of the newspapers; when that exercise is completed, he orders his tea; and by this time, some or other of his acquaintance usually arrive, and he will discourse with them on the topics of the day, harangue on the events and transactions of former times, dispute on politics, or laugh over a tale of bawdry till ten o'clock; when his servant leads him home, in order to go instantly to the consultations of his pillow.—Thus he saves coals and candles for six hours of the day, enjoys the society of pleasant people, reads all the daily prints, hears the news of the great world, and the tittle-tattle of the little world, at so small a price as the six-pence which he pays for his tea.

“ The motives to such a conduct are certainly very disgraceful to himself, but however, are, after all, injurious to no one.

He

He is conscious, indeed, that he acts, in this particular, with a parsimony unbecoming a gentleman ; but he consoles himself with the reflection, that he has left the mistress of the coffee-house a legacy at his death, as a compensation for not having spent more money in her house during his life.

“ But we will now, if you please,” continued the Demon, “ prepare for our departure ; and it shall be delayed only to recommend to your notice the tall, thin person who is receiving a glass of cordials from the hand of the good woman at the bar.

“ He is an honest man of some fortune, who has embarrassed himself almost to ruin, from the rage of purchasing bargains that he does not want. Hence it is, that he will buy a quantity of sheep, though he has not a field to pasture them ;

or a set of horses, though he does not keep a carriage; or a lot of furniture, though his house is already crowded like an upholsterer's shop; and so long has he yielded to this ridiculous propensity, that all the great bargains he has bought, will shortly be sold still greater bargains, at a public auction." "I do not wonder then," observed the Count, "that he takes a cordial dose to raise his sinking spirits." "You are quite mistaken," replied the Demon, "it is not from any reflection on his embarrassed situation that he applies to the consoling aid of the glass:—The grief that at this moment oppresses him is of a very different nature, I assure you; the fact is, an house, in his neighbourhood, is to be sold for one fourth of what it cost in building, and he cannot raise money sufficient to make the necessary deposit on entering into an agreement to purchase it."

Don

Don Cleofas and his friend, the Devil upon Two Sticks, now took their leave of the Coffee-house, and from thence immediately proceeded to a new scene of life and manners.

CHAP.

C H A P. X.

The DEVIL upon TWO STICKS shews DON CLEOFAS various Dining Parties at the West-End of the Town.

“ I HOPE your Lordship has made a good dinner,” said Asmodeus, as they turned down the street. “ A most excellent one,” answered Don Cleofas ; “ I have eaten enough, I believe, to sustain me for a week to come.” “ That I do not require,” replied the other; “ but it is absolutely necessary that you should be guarded against any sudden cravings of your stomach, for I am about to display to you such specimens of delicious fare and good living, as will, if you are not absolutely fatiated, most assuredly renew them. In short, you are going to be entertained, as I trust, with a view of those dinner parties which are now, at this end of the town,

town, in full enjoyment." "Be not afraid," answered the Count, "that I shall long for a single morsel of what I may see on the most luxurious tables, however keen my intellectual appetite may be to hear your account of those whom I shall see placed around them." He had no sooner spoken, than the Devil took his friend by the arm, and they were, in a moment, most conveniently situated in a balcony that gave them a commanding view of several houses on the other side of the street.

"Look into that large room," continued he, "in the house immediately opposite, which is so finely illuminated." "It had already caught my attention," said the Count: "A very splendid company indeed, are already seated at dinner, and I should imagine, from certain ornaments I perceive on their dresses, as well as the peculiar decorations of the table, that it is an hymeneal banquet." "It is even so," answered

swered Asmodeus, “ and has been produced by such a singular, though, as it turns out, an happy combination of circumstances, as to merit your attention to the little history I shall beg leave to give you of it.

“ The bride and bridegroom, whom you may distinguish at the upper-end of the table, and who are, both of them, well worth the looking at, are first cousins, the children of two sisters; who having been at law for some time previous to their deaths, concerning the succession to their father's estate, left a complicated Chancery suit as a legacy to their respective children, and all their mutual inveteracy along with it. This unfortunate and ruinous dispute turned on a very nice point, and the lawyers on both sides were equally certain of success, and as warmly promised it to their different clients. The suit therefore proceeded; and some of the intimate friends of both parties saw, with great regret,

gret, that a large and antient family estate was hastening apace to the vortex of the law. It was therefore suggested among them, that something ought to be attempted towards putting an end to this distressing litigation, and several fruitless efforts were made with that benevolent intention.

“ The enmity that had subsisted between the parents of the young people, had so entirely separated them, that their children were entire strangers to each other. The young lady did not know that her relation was a young man of distinguished talents, the most amiable virtues, and accomplished manners :—While he also was ignorant of his fair cousin’s superior charms ; he had no idea of her being, as she was, the loveliest of her sex. They might, indeed, have heard an occasional good report of each other ; but it was with that indifference, or, perhaps with that incredulity with which mankind are too apt to hear the commendations of an enemy. Such, however, and
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so strenuous were the efforts of their friends, that they both began to relax in their hostile propensities, and an accommodation, in the common form of those arrangements, and on the sole principle of mutual interest, would have taken place, had not the secret and artful interposition of their respective lawyers prevented it.—These professional counsellors promised, with so much certainty, the whole of the estate to each, that, at length, the proposition of a moiety was refused by both.

“ One effort, however, remained to be tried; and this was to introduce the young people to each other, without their knowledge. For this purpose, a ball was given, to which they were both invited;—none but persons who were acquainted with the secret intention of it, were to be of the company; the names of the particular parties were not to be mentioned, and it was very easily contrived that the two violent competitors at law, should harmonise most cordially

cordially in the dance.—The project succeeded, to the very great satisfaction of those who arranged it; for they were mutually charmed with each other.—He was so occupied in his attentions to her, that he did not think of enquiring who she was; and a natural delicacy prevented any enquiry, on her part, concerning him; and the ball concluded without any information being attempted on these respective subjects by either of them. On her departure, his curiosity was satisfied with the answer of some general name; and they, neither of them, closed their eyes to sleep that night, without cursing the law-suit, and mutually blaming themselves for having refused the accommodation that had been so lately proposed, and which would have given them that actual state of independence which they now so anxiously desired.

‘With a moiety, or even a lesser proportion of this estate,’ said he, ‘for which I am contending, I should possess a sufficient

ficient fortune to justify proposals to make my lovely partner in the dance, my partner for life.'—On the other hand, she did not fail to deprecate her situation.—
'Never,' exclaimed she, 'before this evening, did mine eyes behold a man to whom I could, with pleasure, resign my heart; but as I am, it had been happy for me had I never seen him;—for should I have made that impression on him with which I am disposed to flatter myself,—what can that avail?—for what man of understanding would marry the most lovely woman in the world, who could bring nothing but a law-suit for her portion?'—Thus did they both ejaculate on their pillows; and when they awoke from their agitated slumbers, thus did they continue to ejaculate.

"The next day, however, this friendly stratagem was explained and avowed; and the friends who had contrived it, proposed that the two hostile cousins should both possess

possess the estate in litigation, by becoming one. This proposition was in too happy a state of preparation to be refused by either of them. They were therefore married this morning; and you now see the wedding banquet, with all the joy that accompanies it."

"Nevertheless," said Don Cleofas, "there are two gentlemen, who sit opposite to each other, at the lower-end of the table, whose countenances do not appear to express that air of hilarity which brightens every other guest." "Your observation is perfectly right," answered the Demon; "they are the two family lawyers, who think that the loss of a chancery suit, is but ill recompensed by an elegant dinner."

"I enjoy their mortification," exclaimed the Count, "almost as much as I do the happiness of the wedded pair. It is however, altogether, a curious and interesting
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little history." "It is so," replied Asmodeus; "for I believe that Cupid and Hymen are very seldom known to interfere in putting an end to a law-suit."

"In the next house, on the right hand," continued he, "is another agreeable party; in which, however, matrimony has very little to do; for the comely dame who presides at the table, is separated from her husband. Observe, if you please, the attentions she pays to her guests: they are passing in a constant succession from one to the other; so that she appears entirely to forget herself; and while she is recommending the various dishes to them, the meat cools upon her own plate.—But in praising the dainties of her little banquet, she is flattering them in the highest degree; for there is scarce an article of her dinner that is not furnished by the friendship of those who are partaking of it. She says the venison is of the first flavour, and comes from one of the finest parks in the
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kingdom;—the gentleman who sent it, hears this eulogium of his place with infinite satisfaction; while the giver of the ham is equally pleased to hear of its superior poignancy; and that it came from a quarter which produces nothing but what is excellent. In short, she contrives, in praising every article of her table, to annex an implied compliment, which is perceived by no one but the person who presented it.—Thus she not only satisfies her guests with an excellent repast, but adds to every part of it the poignant flavour of her delicate adulation. But to explain myself fully upon the subject of this Machiavelian lady, for she certainly deserves that title, it will be necessary for me to give a sketch of herself and her domestic policy.—It is as follows:—

“This lady is possessed of very uncommon qualifications, all of which she applies to her own advantage, without doing any injury whatever to others. She
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possesses the happy art of making all her acquaintance subservient to her pleasures, and, at the same time, so manages the matter, as to contribute greatly to their satisfaction.

“ She is separated from her husband—but as this circumstance arose from nothing more than very discordant dispositions, her reputation suffers no stain, and her character, in the world, no diminution. Her separate allowance is eight hundred pounds per annum ; and, with that income, she is such an excellent manager, that she lives in a very elegant house—keeps a very handsome equipage—possesses an ample establishment of servants—is never without company—gives occasional dinners and suppers—and once in a winter a splendid ball ; and does all this without ever suffering a tradesman to wait a week for the payment of his bill. You will say, perhaps, that such a secret is too valuable to communicate to the world ; I may how-
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ever, safely entrust it to you, who have not the temptation, and I may add, the capacity to avail yourself of it.

“ I have already observed that this good lady possesses, in a superior degree, the art of making herself agreeable to others. Of all her numerous acquaintance, no one goes to her without pleasure, or leaves her without regret. She has an uncommon knowledge of the world, and a rare insight into the human character. She knows the dispositions, follies and foibles of every one who visits her, as well as her cards at quadrille, and applies them as readily to her purpose. Having no very particular friendship for any, her demeanour is easy and unrestrained with all. At the same time she knows how to exercise a necessary preference to one, without causing mortification to others ; and while all possess an equal share in her regards, they are all flattered, at times, with what appears to them to be a particular distinction.

In short, she is always acting a part which is equally agreeable to herself and to all who know her ; and the business is so contrived, as to veil the grand object of it from all, but the principal actress in the scene.

“ As her acquaintance, who are numerous and fashionable, are all extremely partial to her agreeable qualities, and fond of her society, they are ready engines in her hands to answer her particular purposes.— They who have parks supply her with venison ; the lords of manors present her with game ; and the lawns of others occasionally furnish her table with the envied joint of delicious mutton ; while all in general, make the ready and unperceived contributions of card-money, which is considerable enough, under the management of an old family butler, to pay the expences of her assemblies, and the wages of her servants. She is extremely fond of brown bread ; and one of her friends, who
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has that article sent him twice a week from *Essex*, takes care that she shall have the same regular supply with himself:— But this is not all;—for by a little exertion of her usual address, she has contrived that the produce of his kitchen-garden, and the delicacies of his dairy and farm, shall be equally at her service; so that she has little occasion to send to the market for any article this gentleman's estate produces.—She always calls him her steward, and enquires after the farm in *Essex*; while he is happy in making those returns for the pleasures of her society, which appear to be trifles to him, but are of a very satisfying importance to her.

“ Among her numerous contributory visitants, a West-Indian gentleman of very large property, has been made useful to her in so peculiar a manner, as to deserve a very particular description. She had as yet been indebted to him only for the sweetmeats of his own island, to give vari-

ety to her deserts; but in the early part of last winter, she took continual occasion to rally him about sending her an hog's-head of sugar; and her fallies on this subject were so well applied, that he; at last, thought it would be a very good joke to do it. Accordingly, one fine morning, and without any previous notice, an hog's-head of sugar arrived at her door. She almost laughed herself into hysterics at the idea, and made all her friends laugh for a fortnight together at her account of it. They all thought it a most laughable circumstance, while she found it a most serious advantage; having thus secured a quantity of a very dear article, which would be sufficient to answer the ordinary purposes of her house-keeping for several winters to come.

“ Thus does she levy imperceptible contributions on all her acquaintance; and in such a manner does she conduct herself, that the various persons who compose

pose her society, think themselves obliged to her for those very pleasures which they, in fact, have enabled her to bestow. But this is not all;—she so contrives the matter, that there shall always be a competition among her friends, with which of them she is to pass the summer. After much polite hesitation, she always takes care to decide in favour of her own inclination; thus, for at least six months of the year, she maintains herself, her horses, and some of her servants, at the expence of those who are so eager to possess her agreeable company in the country.

“ These are the secret arts by whose sensible application she lives in splendour, with an income equal only to the figure of moderate station; and thus does she acquire importance,—communicate pleasure,—receive satisfaction and conciliate regard. Such are the attentions she employs to her pleasurable interests, and in such a manner does she arrange the plan

of her life, that while rigid honour cannot applaud, it turns aside from passing the sentence of disapprobation. She may be called an hypocrite,—and she is one; but who is there so supremely qualified as to detest that hypocrisy, which does no injury, and adds so much to the satisfaction of social life.

“ So far from considering the lady,” said Don Cleofas, “ as a subject for blame and censure, I think she ought to have a patent for the fortunate discovery of so happily uniting the art of doing good to oneself, and communicating pleasure to others.

“ But,” continued he, “ this street seems to be occupied by none but happy people; for if I may judge from appearances, I should suppose the company assembled in the house adjoining, to be the most contented people that have ever met together since the flood. An air of magnificence

cence reigns throughout the house ;—the dinner might be a banquet for the gods ; and the highest degree of convivial joy seems to prevail at the sumptuous entertainment. There is a little army of attendants ; and if my sight is not dazzled, there is plate enough on the side-board to furnish the altar of a cathedral.”

“ None of your senses deceive you, at present,” said the Demon ; “ they are a most joyous and pleasant company : while the master of the house, who sits at the lower-end of the table, and whose countenance wears such an appearance of comfort and prosperity, is so possessed with his happiness, that he has not the power to reflect, with a moment’s seriousness, that he is absolutely ruined. Should you return to this spot about a month hence, you will see the house despoiled of all its ornaments, and ready to receive another inhabitant.— I perceive your astonishment,” continued Asmodeus, “ but I am going to

increase it, by informing you, that this ruined man is now haranguing, with much good-humour, on his embarrassments ;—is saying witty things, without number, upon his distressed situation ; and the last loud clamour of mirth arose from his desiring the company to eat and drink to-day, for that to-morrow he should have nothing more to give them : while his lady sings as gaily to the same tune ; and, in a tone of equal jocularity, is recommending herself to her female friends, as being perfectly well qualified to exercise the office of a *femme de chambre*."

" This is a philosophy," exclaimed Don Cleofas, " that is far superior to the boasted systems of the Greek and Roman schools." " Alas !" replied the Demon, " it does not, I fear, deserve such an honourable name. It is rather that depravity of the heart,—that insensibility to whatever is good and excellent, which is learned in the school of fashionable dissipation,

pation, and at the academy of the gaming-table: and if this easy, unfeeling pair, were to be the only sufferers, they might sink, as they ought, into that humiliating distress and mortifying neglect which will soon overtake them; but they have five lovely children, who have been educated in all the luxury of superior fortune, and must become the lamentable victims of parental extravagance."

"You have thought proper," said Don Cleofas, "at different periods of our several excursions, to speak in the highest terms of the liberty of this country, and I do not mean to suspect the justice of your praise; but surely it would not disgrace its code of laws, if another were to be added to the volume, which would not permit a parent to possess the liberty of dissipating the patrimony of his children."

"There are laws of such a tendency as you suggest," answered the Demon, "in

several countries of Europe ; and the theory wears a very practicable appearance ; but I apprehend, that in a great commercial country, though such a regulation would be infinitely beneficial to particular individuals, it might be considered by politicians, as detrimental to the general interests of the country.

“ But this is not a very common circumstance ;— and to console you for it,” said Asmodeus, “ I must direct your attention to a large house to the left of us, where half a dozen people are now sitting down to a dinner which has no proportion of the splendour or conviviality of that which you have just observed.” “ Indeed it has not,” replied the Count ; “ and, on a comparison, has rather the appearance of parsimony or poverty. There is a certain calmness and sobriety in the demeanour, as well as the countenances of the company, which does not give me any great reason to presume in favour of their society :

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If there is any pleasure or satisfaction among them, they seem determined to keep it to themselves. As for ceremony, there is really so little of it, that I could almost suppose I was looking at an ordinary, where the different persons that composed it, paid their respective quotas, and were, therefore, equally masters of the table."

"And it is this very tranquil appearance," replied the Demon, "this total absence of ceremony and parade, which determines the real, unaffected satisfaction of every individual of that company.—It is a family dinner, where no extraordinary preparations have been made, and where each brings that kind of affectionate regard, which considers all formalities as odious and insulting.—They all love one another with reciprocal sincerity—see each other every day—and are, of course, in the continual communication of kind attentions, and friendly offices.—

It is the feast of domestic affection, and therefore wants not the seasoning of luxurious splendour or intemperate joy. They do not laugh with each other when present, that they may laugh at each other when absent;—they do not part with a perfect indifference whether they shall ever meet again : on the contrary, they separate from the happy meeting of to-day, in the pleasing hope of repeating it to-morrow.

“ The master of the house is a gentleman of considerable fortune, and who manages it with that judicious œconomy which renders it productive of equal good to himself and others. He does not make those extravagant entertainments which multiply the demands and heighten the clamour of creditors; he would rather spare from his ordinary expences, if it were necessary, to relieve the distressed. Though his table is not encumbered with costly decorations, it is crowned with plenty ;—
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and as you have seen it to-day, so it has been throughout his life, and will continue to the end of it.—He too, when circumstances require, can be splendid in his hospitalities; but his great aim is domestic comfort, and all his arrangements are ordered with a view to that desirable object. In short, he makes that wise use of his fortune which secures to him the most respectful esteem of all who are within its influence, and will turn, believe me, to the best account, when his heirs have succeeded to it.”

“ There is such a striking difference,” said Don Cleofas, “ between this family and that which preceded it, as almost to justify a suspicion that they are not of the same species.” “ There is no other difference,” replied Asmodeus, “ but that which is ever to be found between wisdom and folly.

“ In the house adjoining,” continued he, “ there is another small family party,
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to which I must beg leave to introduce you, where your Lordship's greedy eye will have less reason than ever to be satisfied." "It is a very small one indeed," answered Don Cleofas; "for an elderly lady and a stout young man, who, I presume, is her son, are enjoying a *tête à tête* dinner, at a round table, by a comfortable fire-side; and seem, both of them, to be obeying the impulse of a most excellent appetite."

"However just your observation may be," replied the Demon, "as to their mutual relish for the good things of their little table, you are entirely mistaken, my good friend, as to the nature of their connection; for it is nothing less, believe me, than that which is formed at the Altar.—The lady, when she was young, was sacrificed by her friends to an old husband;—and since she has grown old, she has been even with them, by sacrificing herself to a young one." "Pardon me," interrupted the

the Count; "the sacrifice, I think, is on his part." "When a young man marries an old woman," replied the Demon, "your opinion may, in general, be adopted; but not as in this case,—when the young man had not a farthing in the world, and the old woman brought a portion of fifty thousand pounds."

"You are determined, however," said Don Cleofas, "to wean me, by degrees, from the temptation of sumptuous entertainments; for in the very next house I see a lady at table by herself, and, if I mistake not, she is reading a book instead of eating her dinner: perhaps she is a devotee, and prefaces her meal with some seasonable prayer, or pious contemplation."

"Prayers and contemplations," replied the Demon, "are by no means among her usual employments; her whole life is passed in reading novels:—Indeed so infatuated is she to that kind of study, that she

she has the cover of a book ornamented with religious emblems, in which she never fails to take a volume from the circulating-library, whenever she goes to church; that she may pursue her favourite occupation without giving scandal to vulgar people, who might be disposed to think such a conduct not only profane but blasphemous: so that while the congregation are addressing themselves to their Maker, or the clergyman is enforcing the duties of morality and religion, she is actually amusing herself with an high flown epistle from some Lady Elizabeth, to some confidential Harriet; considering the difficulties of romantic passion, lamenting the miseries of unsuccessful love, or enjoying the unexpected union of some persecuted and faithful pair. She has received within this hour, the last volume of a very interesting history lately published, and as her devotion suffers continual interruption from her impatience after *catastrophes*, you will not wonder that she permits her dinner to grow cold,

cold, that her curious mind may suffer no delay in being satisfied concerning that of the story she is now perusing with such an eager attention."

"It would really be a considerable gratification of my curiosity," said the Count, "to know the nature of the memoirs which can interest the good lady so much, as to check her appetite, baffle the art of her cook, and render her soup unpalatable."

"I would not mortify either your Lordship or myself," answered the Demon, "with a detail of the nonsense which now occupies all the faculties of her mind and understanding.—It will be sufficient for me to tell you, that the frivolity of the age affords a very shameful encouragement to a species of literary composition called a novel, which is nothing more than a romance taken from the manners of the times; and is, in general, worked up in
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such a form, as to corrupt the minds of young women, and to enable old ones to murder that time of which they have so little remaining. These works are, in general, a disgrace to the press of an enlightened country; but as they suit the false taste of the period, and are profitable to the booksellers, they find an encouragement which reason laments, but cannot prevent. The general plan of this kind of production, however the particular circumstances and characters of it may be varied, is uniform and determinate. The first chapter makes two young people acquainted with each other,—the second will probably produce a most violent and mutual passion,—twenty or thirty more, according to the invention of the writer, will be full of dangers, difficulties, mortifications, hopes, fears, and despair; and it commonly falls to the lot of the last chapter, to have the honour of triumphing over them all, and crowning the lovers with complete felicity. Some authors indeed, who fancy that they shine
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in the pathetic, will conclude their works with a lingering death—a stroke of self-murder—a funeral procession—a marble urn and despairing beauty.

“ The history which is the object of this lady’s anxious attention, is of the latter description ; and if we were to wait here but another hour, you would see her weeping at the melancholy tale, taking drops to cheer her languid spirits, and ordering her coach to bear her to a card-party, to dissipate the sorrows of the evening.

“ But more of this hereafter :—and to make you some amends for this picture of female folly, or rather of human depravity ; for, considered in all its circumstances, it well deserves that name ; I will present a scene to you of a very different and more exhilarating nature : and for this purpose we will change our situation to the pediment of a door, from whence you will have

have a very commanding view of the party I shall next offer to your contemplation.—This arrangement was no sooner proposed than accomplished; and the Count enjoyed the full prospect of a small company assembled at dinner in the house opposite to them.”

“These worthy people,” said Asmodeus, “are celebrating a wedding of this morning, and though it is not attended with the splendour of the nuptial feast you have so lately seen, in another part of the street, it is by no means of an uninteresting nature; and, as such, I flatter myself that you will find some little amusement in the following history of it.

“MARY was the daughter of a respectable farmer in a small town in the west of England, and having been chosen to be the companion of *Almeria*, a young lady of her own age, who was the heiress of a wealthy gentleman in her father’s neighbourhood,—

bourhood,—*Mary* had acquired a manner of behaviour superior to her station, and had improved the good understanding which nature had given her, by being frequently present at the instructions bestowed on her friend and protectress : but these advantages were not of long continuance ; for when *Almeria* attained the age of sixteen years, she bid adieu to the country, in order to be ushered into polite life, under the care and guidance of an aunt, who resided in London.

On taking leave of *Mary*, however, she shed tears, and made the most ardent professions of lasting friendship. She did, indeed, write occasionally to her village friend, for some time after she was separated from her ; but the novelty of her situation, the crowd of new acquaintance, and the pleasures of fashionable life, soon rendered such a correspondence indifferent, if not irksome to her ; and *Mary*, who found herself neglected, and thought herself forgotten,

gotten, endeavoured to find consolation in performing the duties of an affectionate child to an infirm and tender father.

“In this situation she would have been contented ; but two enemies appeared in different forms, to disturb her repose, and embitter the innocent comforts of her life : a mother-in-law, who was jealous of her superior merit, and the curate of the parish, who was become too sensible of it.—The former made her wretched from the continual occasion she took to thwart and mortify her ; while the latter destroyed the little satisfaction that remained, by inspiring her tender bosom with a chaste, but inauspicious passion. With the one she suffered all the rigours of envious tyranny ; and if she fled from the evils of it, to the asylum that was offered her in the arms of the other, though she might find love, it would be associated with that poverty which would deprive it of every charm,
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and render her distress still more afflicting, by heightening the sensibilities of it.

“ At length, Mary’s father, who had long been in a declining state, paid the last debt which is due to nature.— She received his dying benediction, and retired in an agony of grief, from the chamber of an expiring parent. But her former uneasinesses vanished from her remembrance on a view of those distresses which now threatened her. The artifices of her step-mother had prevailed to deprive her of that paternal property which, by every natural right, belonged to her, and as she was left destitute of fortune, her lover began to grow cool ; till, at length, he actually forsook her, and transferred his affections to the daughter of a wealthy farmer. Nay, the day shortly arrived, when that hand, which had been so often pledged to Mary, was to be given to another.”

“ The poor, unhappy girl, persecuted as she was by the mockeries of her mother—

ther-in-law, and possessing too much pride to remain the scorn of those who had so long envied her superior endowments, packed up a little bundle of necessaries, and while the village was assembled to see the nuptial procession, she stole from the house ; and taking a private path, determined to pursue her way to London, and throw herself on the friendship, or, at least, the humanity of Almeria. As she crossed the fields, the marriage peal smote her ear, and while it quickened her step, it added also to the painful throbbings of her heart. It was not long, however, before she gained the high-road to the capital ; where, hurried, fatigued and afflicted, she sat down upon a stone, and gave vent to her tears.

At this moment, a young man dressed in mourning, rode up to the place where she sat, and made his enquiries in such a manner, as induced her to tell him that she was unfortunate, and was directing her course toward London. He replied that he was
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the master of two broad-wheel waggons which were just behind, and that she should not only be welcome to a place in either of them, but that he would take upon him to conduct her in safety, and without any cost on her part, to the end of her journey.

“It may now, perhaps, be proper to observe,” continued the Demon, “that Mary was indebted to nature for something better than beauty. She possessed a form, a countenance, and a voice that commanded an interest in sensible minds, and the master of the waggons happened to be endued with a sensibility which is not expected to accompany such a station; and, indeed, is very rarely to be found in any character that has been educated in the trammels of worldly concerns. When the first waggon arrived, Mary was seated in the most commodious part of it; and the owner of the machine had, during the course of the journey, so far gained, by his assiduities, on the confidence of the fair traveller, that she ventu-

red to communicate to him the unreserved history of her sorrows and disappointments.

“ On their arrival in town, the friendly carrier attended her to Almeria's house, where she was received with kindness, and experienced the cheering consolations of protecting friendship. But this is not all : for a few weeks after, the master of the waggon, who had since been obliged to remain in the country, to settle the affairs of his father, who had died some time before, paid her a visit, and offered her to become the mistress of the waggon in which she rode, and to share, besides, a very comfortable situation with him. She was already rather prepossessed in his favour, and Almeria approving very much of the connection, Mary consented to his proposal, and they were married this morning. On this occasion Almeria conducted herself towards her village friend with the warmest generosity; and

and it is at her house that you now behold the celebration of this happy marriage."

"This is a most pleasant little history," said Don Cleofas, "and I think would form the subject of an excellent novel for the old lady to take to church with her."

"I perfectly agree with you," replied Asmodeus; "and to give you an adequate idea of this species of composition, I will take up your suggestion, and let you into the manner in which such a business might be very completely arranged.

"First of all, we must turn the farmer of the village into the parson of it; the curate into a country 'squire; the waggon into a post-coach; and the carrier into a Mr. ———, the accomplished son of a wealthy Baronet, who was one among the numerous admirers of Almeria. We must then make Almeria so jealous of Mary, as to treat the poor girl very ill at first, and turn her

out of doors afterwards.—Mary must then be represented as suffering every kind of distress; but possessing virtue sufficient to resist all the dangers and temptations of her calamitous situation. In the mean time, Mr. B——— must, in consequence of the advice of some rich relations, be dispatched by his father to the continent, on account of his avowed attachment to Mary. An history of his constancy—his miseries—and his travels, will, of course, follow;—then kill all his relations without mercy, place his father on his death-bed, and hurry him back to England, to receive a paternal blessing, and succeed to the title and estate of his family. After a very anxious pursuit and continual enquiry, let him, at length, in some very unexpected and unaccountable manner, discover his darling Mary in an humble, but virtuous situation, from whence he must instantly remove her, to make her Lady B———.

“ By way of episode or under-plot, Almeria, after having been for some time a
coquette

coquette of consideration, may be made to marry a dissipated man of fashion, and to become a dissipated woman of fashion; she may then be separated from her husband, and left to the grief of morning nerves, the hurry of evening dissipation, and the mortifications of faded beauty.—Thus, I flatter myself,” continued he, “the business would be admirably well completed; and I am vain enough to think, that this sketch, finished as it might be, would give bread to some poor fellow of an hackney-writer, for twelve months to come.”

“And if you have the power,” said Don Cleofas, “it would be charity to inspire such an one with the thought. But my attention is already transferred to a scene in the adjoining house, which is as unintelligible to me, as any of those which have preceded it, till you were so kind as to unfold the history of them. There is,” continued he, “seated at table, a middle-aged man, in a shabby military dress, with

a woman somewhat younger than himself, and three children, whose appearance does not at all suit the grandeur of the apartment, and the elegance of the dinner. At the same time a gentleman, who, I presume, is the master of the house, shews them every possible attention, and is now serving them himself with wine, from a small round table by his side, which, I suppose, is placed there in order to supersede the attendance of servants.—But this is not all; for while you were concluding the history of your novel, I observed, that on the gentleman's leaving the room for a minute, the officer rose instantly from his chair to embrace the woman and children with that impatient warmth, which denotes him to be the affectionate husband of the one, and the tender father of the other; and then returned as hastily to his place without uttering a syllable, with an air of apprehension that this stolen indulgence of his affections might be discovered by the sudden return of the gentleman.”

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“ It is exactly,” said the Demon, “ as you have imagined : but to give you a satisfactory explanation of what you have seen, I must trouble you with another story to affect your sensibility,—to awaken your surprise,—and to satisfy your humanity.

“ The master of that house is a nobleman of great wealth and virtue ; but his character is principally marked with a peculiar turn of humour, and the love of what may be called frolic, which predominate in all his actions : The indulgence even of his humane disposition must be accompanied with the gratification of his singular propensity. But I shall explain myself more to your satisfaction in the history of the business which has so naturally stimulated your present curiosity.

“ This nobleman, who is continually on the watch to indulge his humour, had observed, for some time, that whenever he passed through St. James’s Park, he was

sure to see a military gentleman of about fifty years of age, of a melancholy and unprosperous appearance, always walking by himself in the Mall, or sitting alone upon a bench.

“This gentleman the noble Lord marked out as a most desirable object for one of his benevolent frolics; and having caused the necessary enquiries to be made concerning him, his Lordship found that he was exactly the unfortunate and neglected man who would suit his purpose. He had originally laid out the whole of his little fortune in the purchase of a commission,—had, during the last war, behaved with uncommon bravery, and at the conclusion of it, been left to starve upon half-pay.—It also appeared, on further enquiry, that the poor captain having a wife and several children, had been under the necessity of sending them into Yorkshire, whither he constantly remitted them one half of his pay, which would not be sufficient

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ent for their subsistence near the metropolis, and reserved the other moiety to keep himself on the spot, where alone he could hope for an opportunity of obtaining a more advantageous situation. These particulars were precisely such as the noble Lord desired, and he immediately began to prepare them for the indulgence of his own peculiar gratification.

“ After some time, when every previous circumstance of the plan had been adjusted, he sent a message of invitation to the captain, desiring the favour of his company to dinner the day following. The poor, forlorn officer was not less astonished than delighted at this most unexpected message ; he therefore accepted the invitation with the most grateful acknowledgements, and employed the interval in flattering his hopes, that such a mark of civility from a nobleman wholly unknown to him, must have arisen from some secret circumstances, which would undoubtedly promote a

happy change in his present uncomfortable situation.

“ The next day the noble Lord received him with very distinguished civility ; and taking him aside with an air of great secrecy and importance, astonished the captain with the information, that he had requested the favour of his company to dine, by the desire of a lady, who had long had a peculiar regard for him, and very anxiously wished to be presented to him ; a circumstance which, from her situation, it was impossible for her to accomplish, without the assistance of a friend : he had, therefore, taken the liberty to bring them together, as it would prove, he hoped, to their mutual satisfaction. While his Lordship was speaking, he enjoyed the profound astonishment which appeared in the captain’s face ; who, after he had a little recovered himself, began a reply with great solemnity, in which he laboured to insinuate, in the best manner he could, that he
doubted

doubted the truth of this relation, and that therefore it became him to resent the insult offered him: but the Peer put an end to his doubts, by laying his hand on his breast, and very devoutly swearing, that he had told him nothing which he did not believe himself to be true, and assured him that a few minutes would convince him of the truth or falsehood of his assertions, as the lady in question, would meet him at table.

“ At this moment dinner was announced, and the captain entered the eating-room in a mixed state of curiosity and apprehension, which, as you may suppose, instantly gave way to his most inexpressible astonishment, when he saw his wife and children seated at the table, in an equal state of surprise at the sight of him:—For the good Lord had begun his frolic, by framing some plausible pretence to induce them to change their retreat in Yorkshire for his house in London.

“ The looks of astonishment at the unexpected meeting of these worthy people, with the amiable and happy confusion that followed, and the difficulty of getting them to eat any thing that was set before them, with various other aukward circumstances, that arose from the peculiar situations of the party, afforded all the entertainment to the noble Lord which he expected to derive from his whimsical arrangement.

“ You are now,” continued Asmodeus, “ sufficiently acquainted with the business, to reconcile what you have seen to your own understanding: but the last act of this pleasant comedy still remains to be performed: and as we have not time to wait for the exhibition of it, you must receive it from my description.

“ You must know then, that in the course of the evening, the noble Lord will apologize to his company for transacting a little business in their presence with his
21 lawyer,

lawyer, who will be called in to execute a deed, which, on hearing it read, the astonished captain will perceive to be nothing less than a settlement of an handsome provision on himself and family during their lives. The Peer will enjoy, with infinite pleasure, the further emotions of his guests, during the recital of this parchment; and, having executed it, will present it to the officer, with a request that it may be received without any expressions of acknowledgement; assuring him, at the same time, that he should not have acted as he had done, if he could have employed his time or his money in any other way that could have procured him more satisfaction."

"As you contrived an admirable novel from the last story," said Don Cleofas, "you might surely produce an excellent comedy from this, under the title of *The good Humourist*." "The idea is not a bad one," replied Asmodeus; "but the species
of

comedy that makes people cry for joy, and which, after all, possesses the best tendencies of dramatic composition, is not the taste of the present day. People now prefer to be amused with puns that would disgrace common conversation,—to be delighted with extravagant caricatures of nature, and to laugh at that grimace which, a few years ago, was only to be found on the stage of a mountebank.”

“ But from whence proceeds that burst of laughter,” said Don Cleofas, “ which, while I am making the enquiry, is repeated with augmented violence; it appears to issue from the house whose portico affords us our present situation.” “ It is even so,” replied the Demon; “ and in order to gain a view of the party, we must remove to a similar position on the other side of the way.” This being instantly effected,—“ It is, I perceive,” said the Count, “ from that room which is so finely adorned with pictures, that the strain of merri-

merriment proceeded ; but, instead of a large company, which I expected to find, I see no more than two gentlemen, who are dining, to all appearance, in great luxury. They must, however, possess a very uncommon share of wit, to enliven a *tête à tête* with such violent hilarity."

"He who sits in the arm-chair," replied Asmodeus, "and is now pouring out a glass of champagne for his companion, is a man of a very singular character. He possesses infinite pleasantry, which he has contrived to apply in such a manner, as to make it stand in the stead of estate and fortune. By his superior convivial and colloquial qualities, under the disposition of a consummate knowledge of mankind, he has contrived to be a Member of Parliament,—to obtain a profitable place under Government,—to associate with the first people in the kingdom, and live in elegance and luxury. But this is not all ;—he will die in debt to half the town, leave some of
his

his most intimate friends in a state of great embarrassment from their engagements for him, and contrive, nevertheless, to bequeath his family an income of fifteen hundred pounds a year."

"Then I presume," said the Count, "that the gentleman who is with him, is some very confidential friend, and that they are both laughing at the cullibility of mankind."

"By no means," replied Asinodeus, "for he himself is the dupe of the present moment, and has not the least suspicion that a good dinner, excellent wines, and so much wit, can be employed to pick his pocket. He is, in fact, a fashionable Auctioneer, and has just been persuaded to advance a large sum of money upon the pictures which hang round the room, though three others of the same profession have, at different times, been previously induced to make similar advancements on
this

this valuable collection ; for which, after all, the person who originally sold them, has never been paid a shilling.

“ Such a character as this, is, of all others, the most dangerous to civil society: I do not mean with respect to the mere frauds practised on individuals, which do not extend their mischief beyond the persons who suffer by them, but from the faculty of preserving himself in reputation and society with so many disgraceful imputations annexed to his character, by the sole art of creating a laugh at his vices, and making them the subject of irresistible jocularities.—For you may be assured, that the man who is able by his wit and his cunning to make a notorious act of dishonesty appear to be a good joke, is more hostile to the general interests of the community, than the villain who lives by plunder; in the same proportion as the moral qualities of a man’s heart are superior to the guineas he carries in his purse.

“ But

“ But I must quit my moralizing strain,” said the Demon, “ to request your attention to the next house, where a pale, emaciated figure of a young man, wrapped up in flannels, and reclining on a sofa, is making a sickly dinner on a single potatoe: but with all this miserable appearance, he is, I assure you, in a state of preparation to be married.” “ That may be,” replied the Count, “ but it will be to his grave; if there is any truth in appearances, his nuptial robe will be a winding-sheet.”— “ You never were more mistaken in your life,” answered the Demon; “ his disorder is by no means desperate, and is of such a nature, that he must absolutely be made worse, in order to be made better.—He is really contracted to one of the finest women in the kingdom, who is so superior to vulgar prejudices, that, though she knows his present sufferings are the fruits of a long contamination with the lowest prostitutes, consents to take him for an husband; and sends every day, in the kindest

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est manner possible, to enquire concerning the progress of his cure. The nuptials, therefore, are necessarily delayed; for, to tell you the truth, they will depend as much on the licence of the surgeon, as on that of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

“ In the house adjoining, a violent friend to the party in opposition to the present Ministers, is giving a dinner to several of the leading members of it.—In that company there are men who possess as great talents and as corrupt principles as ever were known to elevate or debase the human character.—But I shall take an opportunity to introduce you to an intimate acquaintance with them at a more suitable opportunity. At present, as you may perceive, the ardour of ambition is checked,—the sighs of patriotism are smothered,—the burthen of oppressive taxes are rendered imperceptible;—and the haughty ignorance of Ministers is superseded by the joys of convivial society.—

Demireps

Demireps of fashion,—prostitutes of reputation,—diaries of the gaming-table,—and the improving topics of the horse-course and the fox-chace, occupy the deep discourse. The loud burst of laughter however, which has just escaped them, was caused by an honest country 'squire who is of no party whatever, and was accidentally invited to make one of the company. It must, indeed, be acknowledged that he made a most ridiculous blunder, and well deserves the mockery of jovial patriots; for he actually proposed as a toast, 'Long life to his present Majesty.'

" In the first-floor of the next house, there is no mirth or festivity; but if you turn your eyes to that quarter, you will see an old bachelor and a very excellent man, who is taking his dinner by himself, with more real satisfaction and virtuous contentment, than could be extracted from that huge mass of company which we have just quitted.

" That

“ That gentleman is a learned, accomplished and worthy character. His estate is very considerable, and his expences very moderate; but the tranquil privacy of his life does not arise from any avaricious principle, but merely to avoid the trouble and restraint of living up to his fortune.— When he is in town, he resides in a lodging, with no other attendants than a footman, and a maid-servant. In the country his establishment is not more numerous than is absolutely necessary for his own convenience.—He certainly does not spend a fifth part of his income on himself:— Nevertheless, he thought proper, but last week, to add five thousand pounds to the marriage portion of one of his nieces.

“ But we have pretty well exhausted this street of its history,” said Asmodeus; “ and we will now remove, for the few minutes we have to spare on dining parties, to another situation.”— This proposition was no sooner made than executed; and

and Don Cleofas found himself at the top of an house, which commanded an entire view of a tavern in the neighbourhood of St. James's Square.

“In the large room, on the first-floor,” continued Asmodeus, “you see an assembly of English Baronets; a species of knights whose honours are hereditary.—But do not suppose, I beg of you, that any thing like the true spirit of knight-hood animates their characters.—The hardihood of antient chivalry is not felt by any, and is even unknown to many of them.—No scheme of public benefit—no plan of patriotic benevolence has summoned them together.—The honour of their Order, or rather the silly vanity of certain individuals of it, has produced this meeting; the important business of which is, to consider of the mode to be employed in addressing the King, to grant these meritorious characters some additional mark of personal distinction.—They are not contented with
a title

a title for themselves, their wives, and the elder branches of their posterity;—they do not think it sufficient that their daughters should take place after those of Peers of the Realm, and that their arms should be emblazoned with a bloody hand; but, like children, who having got one bauble, instantly cry for another, they are idly ambitious of obtaining permission to wear the bloody hand encircled in a star, on their coats, or to dangle in the form of a medallion from a ribband, on their waistcoats.—However, for the credit of the Order, not a tenth part of those who possess it, are concerned in forwarding these silly pretensions; and they who are most eager in the business, are chiefly those of modern creation.

“ The knight who is now stammering out a speech on the occasion, obtained his title in the following manner:—A former Minister being continually persecuted by a person who had been of some use to him,
for

for a remuneration of his services, at length told him, that there was no other immediate possibility of satisfying him, unless he would accept of a Baronet's patent: but as honours alone will not appease an hungry stomach, or pay a taylor's bill, or discharge the rent of a lodging, the poor man remonstrated in a very earnest manner, on the impropriety of such a donation; when he was informed that a blank was left for the name, and that he might dispose of the title to the best bidder. The worthy gentleman whom I have just pointed out to you, eager to advance his rank in society, gave fifteen hundred pounds to fill the blank with his name." "And very probably," interrupted Don Cleofas, "he does not think that he has had enough for his money."—"At all events," replied the Demon, "he has better grounds to go upon than those who have received their title as a personal favour from their Sovereign, or to whom it has descended from their ancestors.—

But

But, after all, the petty ambition of these good people must content itself with their present situation; for after having been very generally laughed at by the sensible part of mankind, they will not be able to get another drop from the fountain of honour, to quench the thirst of their ridiculous vanity.

“Look into the room,” said the Demon, “on the ground-floor, where three gentlemen, who have finished their dinner, are drinking toasts to patriotism, and whatever is superior in beauty:—But this is not the object of their meeting;—the youngest of the three, who is just come to a large estate, is to be enlivened by Burgundy out of his precaution;—cards will then be proposed—and he will, in the end, pay five hundred pounds for the agreeable party.

“I shall conclude this branch of our excursion,” continued Asmodeus, “with
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desiring you to observe a little party in the adjoining room, which consists of a town-bred man of fashion, who has a place at Court, and a respectable country gentleman. The former passed two months during the last summer, at the seat of the latter in a distant county, where he, his servants and his horses, were entertained in plenty, and with a cordial welcome:— And in return for all this civility, he has invited his country friend, who is come to town on business, to a tavern dinner, for which he will allow him to pay half the reckoning.

“ The worthy 'squire will, as you may suppose, quit London with very unfavourable impressions of its hospitality, and a full determination that this gentleman, at least, shall never be again invited to partake of that which he has always practised in the country.

“ But

“ But this is a time of the evening,” observed the Demon, “ when other objects are ready to present themselves to our observation : we will, therefore, if your Lordship’s curiosity does not demand repose, proceed to a review of them.”—

The Count did not hesitate a moment in expressing a desire to continue the instructive progress ; and they immediately took their flight to another quarter of the town.

END OF VOL. II.

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